

THE TIMES Tomorrow

A survival guide for the urban cyclist features in tomorrow's edition of Saturday, the eight-page section that provides the best weekend guide to what is happening in the arts, entertainment, and leisure.

Report for work, Walesa told

Mr Lech Walesa, the former Solidarity leader, has been ordered to report to the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk to be given a job, according to informed sources in Gdansk.

Iran blamed for Baghdad bombs

Iraq blamed Iran for two car bomb explosions in central Baghdad yesterday which killed and wounded a number of people.

Octopus sell-out

City institutions rushed to buy shares in Mr Paul Hamlyn's Octopus Publishing Group. Application lists closed after a token one minute and the issue, by public tender, could be 18 times oversubscribed.

Norfolk honour

The Duke of Norfolk, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin and Lord Richardson of Duntisbourne have been appointed Knights Companion of the Order of the Garter.

CBE man dead

Mr George Perry, a former chief executive of General Motors in Britain, who was awarded the CBE in 1976 for furthering British-American relations, has been found murdered in a New York lake.

Dublin choice

Dr Colin O'Riordan, a biochemist and president of University College, Galway, has been appointed chairman of the Forum For A New Ireland which convenes on May 30.

£2m air claims

The lawsuit of eight members of the Spanair Skydivers Club killed in a "copter crash" at West Ger air show are to sue Boeing, the aircraft manufacturer, for £2m each.

Prime plea fails

Geoffrey Prime, the self-confessed spy for the Russians, was refused leave to appeal against his 38-year sentence for espionage and assault on girls.

Carrington gibe

Calling for a new dialogue with Moscow, Lord Carrington, former Foreign Secretary, derided the silent war of nerves broken only by bursts of "megaphone diplomacy".

Israel divided

The mounting toll of Israeli casualties in Lebanon has prompted a minority in the Begin Cabinet to press for a partial troop withdrawal.

Off the mark

First-class cricket began at Cambridge where the University are playing Glamorgan. Fixtures for the season, which includes the Prudential World Cup, appear on page 23.

Leader page 13 Letters: On probation pay, from Mr David Mellor; appeals, from Mr Ludovic Kennedy; CND, from Mgr Bruce Kent. Leading articles: Lord Carrington's speech; Argentine widows; Farm prices. Features, pages 10, 11, 12. The president of the World Bank defends aid to the Third World; fooling the KGB, why any bid for Sotheby's; fading blooms of the desert; the many lives of Lana Turner. China: Four-page Special Report on a country seeking political stability and higher living standards.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Business, Court, Crossword, Diary, Events. Includes sub-sections like Law Report, Motoring, Sale Broom, Sport, TV & Radio, Theatre, Weather.

France leads call for new monetary system

From Bailey Morris, Washington

France has launched a strong international campaign to persuade Western nations to agree to sweeping reforms of the international monetary system. These would be made at a special conference, which the Mitterrand government is preparing to host next year and which, according to diplomatic sources in Washington yesterday, could replace next year's economic summit meeting of the seven leading Western powers.

The proposal for a conference - like that at Bretton Woods in 1944 which set up the International Monetary Fund - will be discussed at this year's summit in Williamsburg, Virginia, next month.

M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, and other leading officials in the Mitterrand government, have urged European countries to put pressure on the Reagan Administration to agree to the conference.

French officials have also asked leaders of developing countries to make similar demands at September's joint annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF.

Japan is mounting equally strong if more discreet pressure on the United States for reform. Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister will propose at Williamsburg, a comprehensive policy to 'revitalize' the world economy, including plans to stabilize international exchange and interest rates as its first priority.

Mr Haruo Mayekawa, Governor of the Bank of Japan, told a conference of leading world bankers in Tokyo yesterday that the floating exchange rate system "has not come up to expectations". He blamed trade frictions on volatile and illogical exchange rates and called for a systematic investigation of ways to achieve stability.

M. Cheysson, in speeches with finance and foreign ministers, has stated strongly his belief that the western alliance could not survive and that meaningful world recovery could not take place without reform of the floating exchange rate system.

An increasing number of American and European officials have expressed similar views in recent weeks in what appears to be a growing campaign to force the Reagan Administration to change its own monetary policies and agree to international reforms.

Support is mounting for a proposal to reform the present system of floating, flexible exchange rates by adopting a system which would place limits on currencies by requiring them to trade in fixed, narrower bands. Governments would be allowed to exceed these bands only after appealing for and receiving permission from an international body such as the IMF.

Those supporting proposed reforms would like to invest the IMF with greater powers to act as the lender of last resort to rescue countries with severe debt problems. These powers would include the ability to create, with little delay, additional funds or special drawing rights (SDRs) to help depressed countries.

According to one top diplomat, "support is waiting for the IMF into an international central bank, but it is growing for one that would increase its powers to act as the international lender of last resort".

He said the growing concern which is being expressed over the debt crisis and the fragility of the world recovery is almost certain to turn the Williamsburg summit into a more explosive conference than the Reagan Administration had anticipated.

Part of the concern among European officials continues to be generated by the upward movement of the dollar, which is drawing badly-needed capital out of Europe.

Western heads of state and Japanese officials want the Reagan Administration to reverse its rigid policy of non-intervention to a more accommodating policy of limited intervention to control the dollar.

He said in an interview on Independent Radio News: "Obviously in case this should happen we are prepared to continue plans but I am not going to tell you what they are and I hope you will understand."

"Much the best thing is that good sense and responsibility should prevail in Buenos Aires, that those who really represent the bereaved widows and orphans should get together to prevent this freelance expedition going ahead, because there must be a better, more dignified and more human way of doing what needs to be done," Mr Oaslow said.

Officials point out that some of the extra spending may have gone on items brought forward from this year, with no spill-over implications for higher spending in 1983-84.

The 1982-83 outcome means that financial policy was less tight than had been feared last year. The PSBR was equivalent to 3.4 per cent of national output, compared with the 2.4 per cent envisaged in the Budget for both 1982-83 and 1983-84.

Government spending is thus likely to have given a small boost to the economy. Further occasion for optimism over the economic outlook came yesterday from the latest cyclical indicators which point to a continuing upswing in the coming months, and from preliminary consumer spending estimates for the first quarter of this year showing spending unchanged from the high levels seen at the end of last year.

Market report, page 16



Out of focus: British photographers down their cameras as the car carrying the Prince and Princess of Wales passes. They were protesting at arrangements for the New Zealand tour. (Sour day, page 9).

Navy may turn back Argentine mourners

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

British warships may be ordered to escort a ship carrying bereaved Argentine families out of the 150-mile exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands if an attempt is made to breach the naval blockade in 10 days' time.

But Whitehall officials last night refused to discuss contingency plans which have been drawn up in case Senor Orlando Destefanis carries out his threat to organize an unauthorized visit on April 30.

Senor Destefanis intends to go ahead, despite the decision by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to withdraw its support.

The Foreign Office immediately cancelled its permission for 250 relatives to visit the graves in the special cemetery at Port Darwin laid out for the Argentine dead by Britain, on the grounds that it accepted the judgment of the Red Cross.

Mr Charles Oaslow, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, agreed last night that any attempt to enter the exclusion zone without permission would make those who did so liable to be stopped.

He said in an interview on Independent Radio News: "Obviously in case this should happen we are prepared to continue plans but I am not going to tell you what they are and I hope you will understand."

"Much the best thing is that good sense and responsibility should prevail in Buenos Aires, that those who really represent the bereaved widows and orphans should get together to prevent this freelance expedition going ahead, because there must be a better, more dignified and more human way of doing what needs to be done," Mr Oaslow said.

BL to open gates with 'work or be dismissed' warning

By David Felton and Barrie Clement

BL executives who are planning a second attempt to break the four-week strike by the 5,000 Cowley assembly workers intend to open the factory gates on Monday to persuade them to return to work.

A mass meeting of the strikers today will hear a report of the abortive 16 hours of negotiations between senior union officials and the company which ended early yesterday, and is expected to vote for a continuation of the strike which has halted production of BL's new Maestro model.

Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of Austin Rover, last night reiterated the warning to the strikers that they could be dismissed if they do not return to work. "They are in breach of their contracts and I believe that if we do not get a speedy return to work we will have no alternative but to take the sort of action we have said we would. We are not bluffing," he said.

Union officials were angry that during the marathon set of negotiations the management rejected their idea of a ballot of the workforce on the company's proposals to end the 30 minutes a week "washing up" time which has been practice at the plant for several decades.

Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) which represents most of the workers, said that changes in the work arrangements and improvements in productivity had to be achieved through negotiation rather than imposition by the management.

The unions and the workers on strike came under heavy attack from the Government and business leaders after the collapse of the peace talks.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, told the Commons that taxpayers had put "a great deal of faith in the people who work at BL. I hope those workers will not return that faith by striking themselves and many other people out of jobs."

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, accused the Cowley workers of committing "industrial suicide".

He told businessmen in Cambridge: "We still have lemmings on the shop floor in the motor industry who are prepared to follow their union leadership over the nearest cliff in their persistence that having a job is a birthright whatever it costs the rest of us."

But Mr Evans and Mr Musgrove, who were appearing on the BBC 1 television programme Nationwide last night, agreed that the situation at Cowley was "very serious indeed". BL said that it would await the outcome of today's mass meeting before deciding on future action.

But it was understood that the company's threat to dismiss workers who did not respond to a return to work call from the

Continued on back page, col 4

Commons refer Times report to privileges

By Our Political Staff

The Commons decided yesterday by 159 votes to 48 to refer to the Committee of Privileges a report in The Times about the future of British foreign policy towards the Falkland Islands.

The report, about an inquiry by the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee appeared as the front page lead on Monday under the headline, "Thatcher to be told Fortress Falklands policy is untenable."

Sir Anthony Kershaw, Conservative MP for Stroud and the committee chairman, moving the reference, said the draft on which The Times report was based had a warning on its front page against premature disclosure.

He said that last Thursday the draft report was issued to the 11 committee members and six clerks and advisers, and on Monday an accurate summary had appeared in The Times. The report was clearly based on a close reading of the draft, he said.

Several Labour MPs opposed the motion. Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr, asked what purpose would be served by a reference to the committee.

The journalist in question, if he was worthy of his trade, would not divulge his source. Why was the Times singled out? Other reports had appeared in The Guardian and the Scotsman but the crime of The Times was prominence.

Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, chairman of the Select Committee on Education, said that to send to the privileges committee a journalist, whose job it was to get information and who could only have got it by a degree of collusion with an MP, was a fruitless operation.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Alliance defence pact split by Owen

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr David Owen, deputy parliamentary leader of the Social Democratic Party, last night blew open the Liberal-SDP Alliance's tentative and delicate peace pact on the future of the Polaris missile system.

It is understood that the two parties have been working towards an agreement, a form of words for electoral consumption, which would put the question of Polaris on the table at the Geneva disarmament talks. The agreement would go no further, neglecting to mention what would happen if the Geneva talks failed to produce adequate Soviet concessions.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said last December that he was against the independent use of Polaris, that the submarine-launched system should be assigned to the control of Nato, and that the two parties would have to consider how long they would be willing to maintain finance for the submarines.

But Dr Owen, the Social Democrats' defence spokesman, said in a speech in Bath last night: "Britain needs a minimum deterrent. That means retaining Polaris unless there have been deep cuts in strategic weapons in the strategic arms limitation talks."

He then added: "It cannot be reiterated too strongly that extending Polaris to the end of the century and being ready if need be to put cruise missiles into nuclear-powered submarines is a perfectly feasible way of maintaining a minimum deterrent for Britain."

The Liberal anguish that will be provoked by Dr Owen's remarks will be underlined by the statements made by Mr Steel in December, after he had spent a weekend with Dr Owen, going over the disarmament issue in great detail. He said then that there had been a genuine meeting of minds, and, when questioned by The Times, he stressed: "On the (questioned) no independent use and assigning to Nato of control of the missiles, we have reached agreement."

Thatcher maintains election secrecy

The Prime Minister yesterday repudiated responsibility for starting what Mr Steel called "electionitis", and said in the Commons that she did not think she had done anything except answer questions put to her. Our Political Editor writes.

But she declined the Liberal leader's invitation to announce the date of the general election, and said: "Let me make it perfectly clear that when I decide to have an election the matter will be announced in the usual way, and until then, in spite of all provocation, I shall not cut out any options."

The Prime Minister's colleagues, who met her in Cabinet

Continued on back page, col 3

TV-am faces another sacking

By John Witherow

The blood-letting continued at the strife-torn commercial breakfast programme TV-am yesterday with the reported dismissal of Mr Hilary Lawson, the deputy chief executive.

According to reliable sources within the company, Mr Lawson, aged 29, who was appointed two weeks ago, was called in yesterday to see Mr Timothy Aitken, the chief executive, to be dismissed.

The sources said that Mr Aitken had told union officials on Wednesday that another executive would be leaving the company. The dismissal followed hard on the heels of those of Anna Ford and Angela Rippon, and the outspoken comments of Michael Parkinson in their defence.

Mr Parkinson was summoned to the Camden Lock headquarters in north London on Wednesday saying he expected to be dismissed but he emerged four hours later saying his differences with the management had been settled.

Mr Lawson was moved sideways from programmes editor to be deputy chief executive to make way for Mr Greg Dyke, imported from London Weekend Television to try to boost the low audience ratings of Good Morning Britain.

Asked about the dismissal, a TV-am executive said "no comment" while another person described it as rubbish.

However the sources maintained that Mr Lawson was a member of the so-called "Yorkshire Mafia", headed by Mr

Michael Deakin, the director of programmes, which had clashed with the "Famous Five" presenters, Mr Michael Parkinson, Robert Kee, David Frost, Miss Ford and Miss Rippon.

They claimed that Mr Parkinson, who has been the most successful presenter of TV-am, only agreed to stay on condition that at least one of the "Yorkshire Mafia" left.

Mr Parkinson, however, denied yesterday that he had discussed dismissals with Mr Aitken.

A colleague of Mr Lawson described his dismissal as "totally unfair" and added that he was not popular with the staff "because he was too busy to solicit support among the journalists."

British airways PANAM TWA British Caledonian

Signs that world airline slump may be ending

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Strong traffic growth across the Atlantic and on other world air routes is raising hopes that the five-year airline slump, the worst in aviation history, may at last be drawing to a close.

Traffic on many routes increased considerably last month and forward bookings look even better, with summer traffic predicted to be up to 50 per cent higher than last year.

The growth on the Atlantic route is stimulating new competitive initiatives from the airlines, including the prospective entry of the People's Express from the United States with its 899 London-New York

single fare. TWA may respond with a £270 Apex return. British Caledonian said yesterday that traffic in March on its worldwide route network was 7.3 per cent up on the same month last year and forward bookings about 15 per cent up. Advance bookings across the Atlantic were 25 per cent up, West Africa 40 per cent and Hongkong 50 per cent. Mr Colin Smith, the finance director, said: "It has stopped raining but we are still waiting for the sunshine". Sandinavian Airline Systems said traffic so far this year was 8 per cent up, with "brumondous growth" to North America and the Far East. Latin American routes were also improving. "We certainly feel the slump is coming to an end."

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP. BLESMA BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION. Includes a photograph of a man and a woman.

Prime's appeal against 'sentence without hope' for spying rejected

By Stewart Teodler, Crime Reporter

The 38-year jail sentence on Geoffrey Prime, who spied for the Soviet Union, was upheld by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Refusing an application for leave to appeal against the sentence, Lord Justice Lawton said Prime had taken "the Queen's shilling" both as a corporal in the Royal Air Force and the Government's intelligence service and then sold her secrets to subjects and allies to a potential enemy. In times of war such conduct would have merited the death penalty.

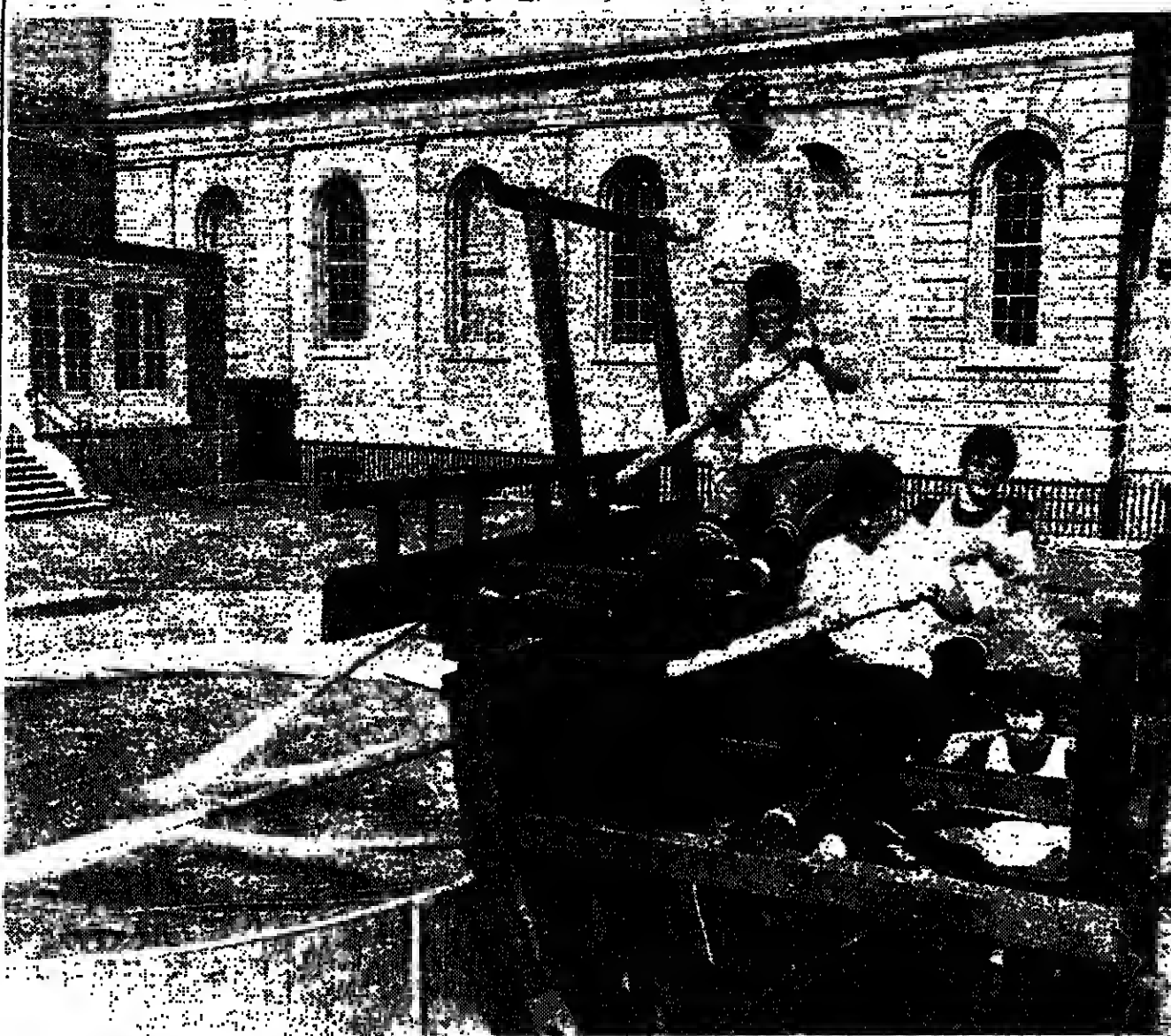
Raising 11 points in favour of the application, Mr Carman asked the court to note that Prime had been interviewed 13 times, lasting 39 hours, by MI5 since his conviction. Mr Carman said Prime was ready to continue to help MI5 and more interviews were likely. His original confession to the police must, Mr Carman said, "have been of enormous value to the security authorities". The statement had made the seven counts against Prime possible. Mr Carman said medical evidence showed that Prime had an obsessive and abnormal personality and was not the ruthless figure seen by the Lord Chief Justice.

The court, Mr Carman said, should consider what effect the sentence might have on any future spy and his relations who might be placed in the position of Prime and his wife. Mr Carman said: "This court has to provide a positive incentive to any future traitor or innocent relative of such a traitor to come forward." Mrs Prime was in court for the hearing. She was in tears when the court retired. When they returned Lord Justice Lawton, sitting with Sir Roger Ormrod and Mr Justice Michael Davies, said Prime's help to MI5 might be taken into account when the sentence was reviewed but it could not be considered by the court. The sentence had to be considered in the light of two basic factors of sentencing which were the deterrent value and retribution. Lord Justice Lawton said retribution was out of favour with criminologists but it meant a situation where the offence was so grave that the sentence had to reflect "the abhorrence by right-minded members of the public".



Geoffrey Prime: "A sentence without hope."

Cambridge team puts Trireme to the test



By Michael Horsnell

A small piece of classical naval history (about 2 metres high by 2.3 metres long) was resurrected at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, yesterday when four members of the Cambridge University light rowing crew "propelled" a Greek trireme for the first time in 1,500 years (above).

The trial was an essential step in a £100,000 project to build a replica of the 115-ft long warship (shown right as 1/25 scale model) used at the Battle of Salamis in 480BC and last recorded in use in a battle between Constantine and Licinius in 323AD. Yesterday's launch of a full scale cross-section of the trireme beside a tank of water proved that three decks of oarsmen with oars of similar length can row simultaneously. It also demonstrated that the warship would have been travelling at up to nine knots when it rammed the enemy. The "threes", as they were described by a fifth century historian, became obsolete and

the method of building them forgotten. But after epic correspondence in *The Times* in 1975 three men, a professor, banker and an architect, recreated the craft in which the gallant Greeks humbled the mighty Persians at Salamis. Last year Professor John Morrison, formerly president of Wolfson College, Cambridge; Mr John Coates, previously chief naval architect at the Ministry of Defence, and Mr. Frank Welsh, a director of Grindlay's Bank, announced that the replica, with a crew of 200, would be launched in 1984.

Yesterday's trial, on the first day of a two-day conference to discuss the project, finally dispelled suggestions that the top file (thranite) must have had longer oars or rowed standing up. A Greek Trireme Trust is being formed to give support, and to the meantime contributions can be sent to Air Marshal Peter Turner, at Wolfson College, Cambridge. (Photographs: Barry Beattie.)

£6m attempt to improve 'barren life' in jail

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

The "barren" life led by adult prisoners in overcrowded Strangeways prison, Manchester, was strongly criticized by Sir James Hennessy, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, in a report yesterday. But even as the report was published the Home Office announced a £6m spending plan for the jail over the next eight years.

The redevelopment was announced by Mr John Lewis, the new governor, who said that the century-old prison had 1,568 inmates. It was designed to hold only 1,024. The figure fluctuated and could regularly reach 1,700.

The report says that a vicious circle of deprivation was in danger of developing, with few work opportunities, a limited education programme and little recreational association.

It adds: "We regard this state of affairs, in which the regime for convicted prisoners cannot by any stretch of the imagination be said to meet the requirements of Prison Rule 1, as quite unacceptable."

Rule 1 places on the prison system the requirement to encourage prisoners to lead a good and useful life.

The report says there were only seven single lavatories for about 350 staff. In parts of the main prison, forty or more inmates shared access to a single lavatory.

On young prisoners, the report says: "For this age group the absence of education and work for all but a minority, and the consequent restriction to the cell for up to 23 hours a day is particularly to be regretted."

But the education department is praised for meeting the statutory requirements for education of 30 young offenders under school leaving age.

The report adds that without the good spirit in the prison, Manchester could not continue to contain so large a population in such basic conditions with so little trouble.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that overcrowding could be met with the necessary commitment of staff to service the courts, led to an impoverished regime with many prisoners spending much of the day locked in their cells.

Efforts had been made to improve conditions within the constraint of numbers and the availability of resources. "I nevertheless accept that conditions for both inmates and staff are in many respects unsatisfactory," he said.

Mr Phil Hughes, member of the Strangeways Prison Officers' Association committee, said yesterday: "The branch certainly welcomes this report and there is really nothing in it which we do not agree. Either the overcrowding must come down or staffing levels must go up, otherwise I dread to think what will happen inside this jail when prison officers begin their summer leave next month."

Mr Hughes said the report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (October, 1981, Home Office, London, £1.10).

Mr Whitelaw has asked Sir James Hennessy to conduct an inquiry into the adequacy of arrangements in prisons for the prevention of suicides. (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes.)

"The inquiry, disclosed by the Home Office Prison Department yesterday, coincides with increasing concern at the number of suicides in prisons. A public inquiry into the administration of the remand prison at Canterbury, in Kent, is called for in a report published today into the deaths of four prisoners there within a year, three by suicide and one through an asthma attack."

The inquiry, disclosed by the Home Office Prison Department yesterday, coincides with increasing concern at the number of suicides in prisons. A public inquiry into the administration of the remand prison at Canterbury, in Kent, is called for in a report published today into the deaths of four prisoners there within a year, three by suicide and one through an asthma attack.

Murder Near the Cathedral (Inquest, 22-28 Underwood Road, London E1 5AW).

Rescue charges idea condemned

By David Nicholson-Lord

Proposals to cut coastguard service and consider levying charges on people who are rescued drew reactions of anger and outrage from representatives of merchant seamen, lifeboatmen and coastguards yesterday.

Mr Eric Nevin, general secretary of the Merchant Navy and Air Line Officers' Association, the largest of the seafarers' organizations, described the idea of charging for rescues as diabolical. The Civil Service Union, which represents all uniformed coastguards, promised to resist the proposals "with all the strength we can muster".

The recommendations are understood to be contained in the forthcoming report on the coastguard service from Lord Rayner's team on Civil Service efficiency. The leak of the report, to *The Guardian*, has coincided with strong criticism at the Penlee lifeboat inquiry of the damage done to the service by reorganization.

The report is said to propose the dismissal of 1,200 part-time auxiliary coastguards, 30 per cent of their total; closing three centres at Moray, Shoreham and Tees and making several full-time staff redundant; and

scrapping the breeches buoy, said to be out of date. Charges for those rescued should also be considered, according to the report.

Although the report acknowledges that the part-timers are paid only "very modest rates" of £1.69 an hour, savings of £60,000 a year are expected. Cutting a third of rescue centres, management teams would save another £240,000 annually. The policy of reducing visual watches should be continued and the 21 centres remaining after the three closures should be reviewed every two years.

The Rayner conclusions were condemned yesterday by Mr John Prescott, Labour MP for Hull, East, who has tabled a Commons motion deploring them.

Captain Eric Kemp, secretary of the St Ives lifeboat and the Trinity House pilot for Mount's Bay, Cornwall, where the Penlee lifeboat operates, yesterday described the proposals as disastrous and predicted they would lead to lives being lost.

Captain Kemp said that if the coastguards were withdrawn "we would have to find some voluntary way of replacing them".

Coastguard chief attacks constant reviews

Britain's chief coastguard yesterday told the inquiry into the Penlee lifeboat disaster that constant reviews of the service were affecting the morale of his men. Lieutenant-Commander Tim Fetherston-Dilke said: "It is perfectly true to say that in me down to the newest-joined coastguard, nobody's confidence is increased by periodic reviews."

"We barely have time to recover from one review before we appear to be into the next. That is the factor which I think does not help morale because it leads to uncertainty among both regulars and auxiliaries about what government policy will be in the future."

Apart from the 1978 reorganization, there were reviews in 1970, 1974, 1979 and 1982, and another review was due in two years, he said.

Eight lifeboatmen, all from Mousehole, Cornwall, died

together with eight people they were trying to save from the coaster *Union Star* in hurricane force winds six days before Christmas in 1981.

Lieutenant-Commander Fetherston-Dilke's predecessor, Mr John Douglas, said yesterday that the coastguard service needed more men and more money in order to avert another Penlee disaster.

Mr Douglas, who called for a reappraisal of the reorganization, told the inquiry that the new breed of coastguards had lost many of the "fine traditions and loyalties" of the old service.

Lieutenant-Commander Fetherston-Dilke, questioned by Mr George Beattie, for the Coastguards, denied that trust between the various rescue organizations had been destroyed.

The inquiry continues today.

Life for youth who put body on railway line

From Our Correspondent Reading

A factory worker, aged 19, was jailed for life yesterday for the murder of a former British Airways hostess whose naked body he dumped on a railway line.

During the four-day trial at Reading Crown Court Mr John Morris, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury how Alan Pinkerton, of Dutton Way, Iwer, Buckinghamshire, strangled and sexually assaulted Mrs Katia Hopkins and then tied her body to a railway line to make it appear she had committed suicide.

Mr Morris said that Mrs Hopkins, aged 36, of Richins Park, Iwer, was on her way to meet Mr Johannes Pharf, a vetinary surgeon when she was attacked.

Pinkerton, who admitted he had taken drugs and had been drinking heavily, had denied murder.

Duke to look at impact of technology

By Our Technology Correspondent

International figures including the Duke of Edinburgh, Sheikh Yamani, oil minister of Saudi Arabia, and Umberto Agnelli, chairman of Fiat Auto, will meet in London next week to discuss the social and cultural change of modern technology.

They will take part in a three-day symposium called Mantech which is being organized by the Fellowship of Engineering (whose senior fellow is the Duke of Edinburgh).

Sir Henry Chilver, vice-chancellor of Cranfield Institute of Technology and chairman of the Mantech organizing committee, said yesterday that the 200 invited participants were expected to produce specific conclusions about the international impact of new technology.

Test tube teams in dispute

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

A serious dispute between the world's two leading test tube baby research teams is revealed in an exchange of letters published in today's issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

The disagreement is over an attempt by Dr Alan Trouson and his team at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, to implant in a woman an egg provided by another and fertilized in a laboratory.

After several trials a pregnancy was achieved in a woman aged 38 with an egg from a donor aged 42. However, the recipient suffered a spontaneous abortion after 10 weeks.

In a severely critical letter, Mr Patrick Steptoe and Dr Robert Edwards, of Bourn Hall Clinic, Cambridge, the pioneers of the test tube baby technique, suggest that the history of this case indicates that hurried decisions were taken under pressure.

They say, "It illustrates the need for firm ethical guidelines, anodes of conduct. It underlines the possible abuses and standard treatments which may occur in vitro fertilization and embryo replacement is not carefully controlled."

Their particular concern is the risk of using eggs from older donors.

In a reply Dr Alan Trouson, Dr Carl Wood and Dr Leeton desaeque with their English colleagues on the risks. They accept that many couples would not wish to receive an egg from a woman aged 42 but they received the right to assist in the donation should the fully informed donor and recipient couples desire this.

The risk of using an egg from an older woman is the higher incidence of malformation such as Down's syndrome which increases with age.

Law Society fails in conveyancing case

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

The Law Society suffered its third court defeat in five weeks yesterday over alleged improper conveyancing. After the society withdrew summonses before Birmingham magistrates' court, it was said it could face action for alleged malicious prosecution.

Other similar prosecutions have been dismissed recently at Chatham and Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Yesterday four summonses against Mr John Atkinson, the managing director of National Conveyancing Services of Moseley, Birmingham, were withdrawn when the Law Society conceded that he had been carrying out a lawful practice. The summonses, taken under section 22 of the Solicitors Act, 1974, alleged that Mr Atkinson was not a qualified person to carry out conveyancing.

But Mr Timothy Lawrence, for the society, applied for the withdrawal of these summonses, saying that earlier this week the society had been told that Mr Ian Morrison, a notary and a person qualified to do the transfer, had drawn up all the papers in the case.

Mr Graham Jones, for the defence, told the court that Mr Atkinson had always contested the case and had carried out a perfectly lawful practice.

Later, Mr David Southwell, secretary of the National Institute of Conveyancing Agents (Nica), said: "We will continue with our main task of providing for the needs of the public. We have now ensured that house buyers will have freedom in choosing their conveyancers."

Mr Atkinson said: "The Law Society has in effect recognized that we are acting in accordance with requirements and that we are not breaking the law."

"In our view there is considerable evidence that this prosecution is malicious and we have requested Nica to consider a prosecution against the Law Society on those grounds."

The Solicitors Act is being broken in the offices of solicitors, in banks and building societies thousands of times every week. Why does the Law Society not prosecute in those cases?

Mr Southwell said: "We are seeking legal advice to determine whether prosecution should be brought against the Law Society for malicious prosecution."

Collector wins tussle over Maori carving

By Francis Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Mr George Ortiz, a millionaire art collector, yesterday won his legal dispute with the New Zealand Government over the ownership of an ancient Maori carving estimated to be worth £300,000, and said to have been exported illegally.

Five Law Lords unanimously ruled that New Zealand could not order the carving to be forfeited by Mr Ortiz, a renowned collector of Polynesian art, who auctioned his collection in 1978 for £1.6m to raise a ransom for his kidnapped daughter.

It is understood that Mr Ortiz, who had to withdraw the carving from the sale because of the legal action, may now sue the New Zealand government for compensation for the expected sale price.

The Law Lords upheld a Court of Appeal ruling that the Queen, as head of the New Zealand Government, was not entitled to claim back the carving, found in 1972 by a trawser in a swamp, under the Historic Articles Act, 1962.

Giving judgment, Lord Brightman said there was no doubt that the carving, five carved

wood panels forming a food store door, was exported in breach of the Act under which permission must be obtained for such exports. But no offence was committed unless the export was done "knowingly", he said.

The only forfeiture, could be under the Customs Act, 1966, which applied to all illegal exports; and that would be enforceable only through customs officials seizing the object.

The New Zealand High Commission said yesterday: "We are naturally very disappointed with the decision and we expect the Attorney General in New Zealand will be making a fuller statement."

The action was also brought against Mr Lance Entwistle, a London dealer in primitive works of art, who sold the carvings to Mr Ortiz in 1973 for \$65,000.

Mr Ortiz of the Patino Bolivian tin-mining family, claimed he was entitled to the carving because he had acquired it in good faith, held it for five years and became the owner under the law of Switzerland, where he lives.

Rounder pounds but fewer in your pocket

By Frances Williams Economics Correspondent

Followers of the cash-in-hand school of electoral behaviour - who believe people vote according to the state of their pockets - would do well to steer clear of the Mint away from a summer general election.

Calculations by *The Times* show that many people now have less in their pay packets than they did at Budget time.

The average working man earning £160 a week now takes home £110.65, compared with £121.03 in Budget week. He has been hit by the rise in national insurance contributions, which have increased by 40p a week, and by the change in the system of calculating mortgage interest tax relief.

Under the new Miras system, tax relief is deducted from the payment made to the bureau instead of reducing deductions from pay at source.

On a £15,000 mortgage Miras will normally mean a net loss of about £160 a week because the drop in repayments is less than the income tax relief withdrawn.

Another £1.33 is lost through the taxman clawing back tax relief given last year.

The position looks rather better once the Budget tax cuts take effect, on the first pay day after May 10, but after the initial tax rebate for the weeks since the start of the tax year in April, take home pay subsides to a steady average £112.45.



Mr Jock Bruce-Gardyne, minister in charge of the Royal Mint, comparing old and new.

	PAY PACKET CHANGES			
	Budget week	First pay day after April 6	First pay day after May 10	First pay day after pay days
Average gross earnings	£160	£160	£160	£160
National insurance	£14.02	£14.42	£14.42	£14.42
Income tax	£33.60	£33.60	£22.80	£31.80
Tax relief on				
£15,000 mortgage	£8.85			
Tax clawback for 1982-83 underpayment		£1.33	£1.33	£1.33
Take home pay	£121.03	£110.65	£121.45	£112.45
Mortgage payment	£31.78	£24.75	£24.75	£24.75
	£89.25	£85.90	£96.70	£87.70

*Assuming married man's allowance only. Calculations by Spicer and Pegler, accountants

Ex-trainer fined over starving racehorse

From Our Correspondent, Gloucester

Menaly, a thoroughbred racehorse, was emaciated through lack of food when it left the stables of David Lewis, a former trainer. Cheltenham magistrates were told yesterday.

The 10-year-old gelding was so thin when it arrived at its new home that Mr Michael Lambert, a leading trainer, could count its ribs.

The horse was so starved that when it started eating it seemed it would never stop. "I was shocked when I saw it," Mr Lambert told the court. "It was obvious it has not been fed correctly."

Lewis, aged 37, of King's Head Lane, Withington, Gloucestershire, denied RSPCA allegations that he caused the animal unnecessary suffering but he was convicted and fined £100 with £500 costs.

The court was told that the horse arrived at the Lambert stables in Kenneythorpe, north Yorkshire, after a 200-mile journey from Gloucestershire where it had spent several weeks in the care of Lewis, who is no longer a licensed trainer.

Mr Ewan Curnow, a veterinary surgeon, said he examined the horse four days later and found it to be in a generally poor state. "My first impression was that it was in extremely poor bodily condition," he said. "Its coat was dull and there was a marked lack of flesh on the withers and hind quarters." The horse would probably not race again, he said.

Lewis denied that he neglected the horse after the owner told him he was moving it to Mr Lambert's stables. He said Menaly went lame during a race told him not to call in the vet because he was moving the horse to Yorkshire.

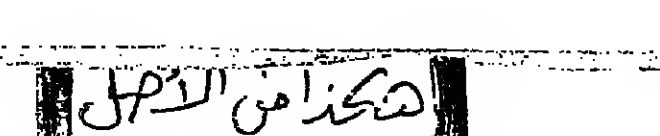
Widow was killed for £60

Michael Heron, aged 22, who admitted murdering Mrs Jenny Barton, aged 82, was jailed for life by Newport Crown Court yesterday.

Heron repeatedly struck Mrs Barton, a widow, with a rolling pin and garden fork to force her to tell him where her savings of £60 were kept. She died 17 days later in Frenchay Hospital, Bristol.

The court was told that on October 29 Heron and his friend, Robert Heath, aged 21, robbed Mrs Barton in her detached home in Beech Road, Chepstow, Gwent, where Heron had worked as a gardener.

Heath was jailed for six years after he was convicted of manslaughter. The judge described him as "weak and ineffectual".



'Times' report sent to privileges committee

COMMONS

On the front page of the Sunday Times... The circulation of this report is strictly limited to members...

The motion by committee chairman Sir Anthony Kershaw... The Times report was sent to the committee...

On Monday last (he continued) an accurate summary of the draft appeared as the lead story on the front page...

Mr John Townend (Bridlington, C) on a point of order... Mr John Townend said that during the last 24 hours...

Food price rise to be minimal

AGRICULTURE

Food price rises in the United Kingdom would add one half of one per cent to the food price index...

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food... The Commission had proposed a 75,000 t increase in cereals...

Aid for pig producers outlined

AGRICULTURE

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HOME AFFAIRS

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Jobs not rates the main issue for many voters

LOCAL ELECTIONS

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent... Funds and prime ministerial candidates say May 5 will be a test of national party standing...

Mr Merricks adds that Sir Cyril Philips reaffirmed that he had arranged for the Home Office to make an appropriate response...

Humanitarian visit to islands acceptable

AGRICULTURE

The prime minister reaffirmed that the Government had nothing against a visit by agricultural people to the Falklands...

Mr Fennell: I refute his absurd allegations. The original programme of disposals to the value of £40m over the three years to March 31, 1984...

Police Bill to go through in usual way

AGRICULTURE

The Prime Minister said that the Police Bill would continue in the usual way and she hoped it would be passed in the usual way...

Mr Nigel Spearling (Newham, South, Lab): Since 1973 wheat acreage has risen by about 50 per cent and we are exporting 1.5 million tonnes...

Higher cereal exports

AGRICULTURE

Mr Buchanan-Smith: I share his concern about the balance in British agriculture. We have been successful in recent years with lower price increases for cereals...

Mr Nigel Spearling (Newham, South, Lab): Since 1973 wheat acreage has risen by about 50 per cent and we are exporting 1.5 million tonnes...

Animal cruelty law is to be updated

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KEY ELECTION AREAS table with columns for Council, Party, Candidates/politics, Local unemployment (March 1983)

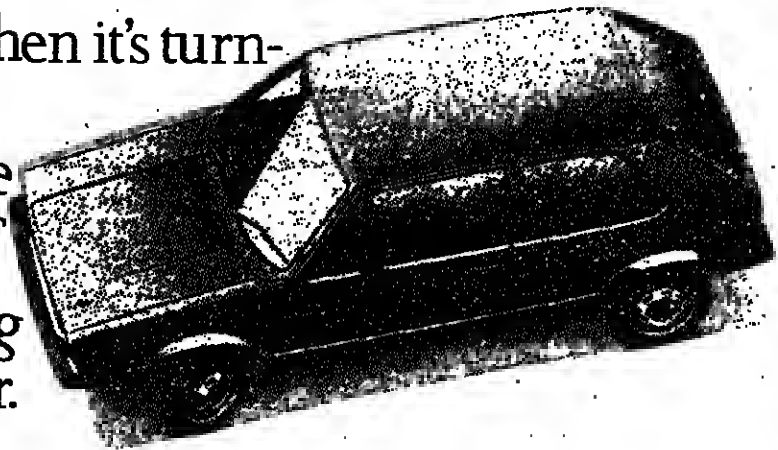
NOE = no overall control. If the Tories are to have any credence nationally they ought to retain Birmingham.

Yet the Conservatives may keep Birmingham just as Labour will certainly have control in Sheffield without those bald facts saying much about underlying shifts in public opinion for the political parties.

THE MOST AMAZING TURNING-CIRCLE STORY EVER TOLD.

When is a 15ft 8ins Volvo 240 Estate smaller than a 12ft 6ins VW Golf? When it's turning round.

Although over three feet longer than the Golf, the Volvo Estate's turning circle is 7 inches smaller.



A giddy, dizzy 32 feet 2 inches, between kerbs.

Parking a Volvo Estate is rather like getting a quart into a pint pot.

Only without all the struggle.

Its power-assisted steering means that the car is every bit as light to handle as the Golf.

But we don't want to pick on the Golf. The Fiat Strada, the Ford Escort and the Talbot Horizon all have a bigger turning circle than the Volvo 240 Estate.

And when you compare the car with other big estates, there's no comparison.

The Peugeot 505 Estate, for instance, needs 2 feet 7 inches more to turn round in.

The Mercedes 200 Estate, 3 feet 6 inches more. The Ford Granada Estate, 4 feet 2 inches more.

Of course, it's not just feet you're interested in, it's cubic feet.

And the Volvo 240 Estate has seventy five of them, with the rear seat folded down.

Both your cargo and your passengers travel in carpeted comfort.

You, the driver, have the added benefit of an automatically heated seat.

(It switches itself on as soon as the temperature drops below 14° Centigrade.)

The construction of the car is equally comforting. Like all Volvos, the 240 Estate is built around a rigid

safety cage of welded box steel pillars. Amazingly, each weld is strong enough to support the weight of the entire car.

There are impact-absorbing crumple zones to the front and rear, and steel bars in the doors.

The 240 Estate protects your investment, as well as your life.

It goes through a unique nine-teen-stage

painting and rust-proofing process.

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only to the underbody, but to the sills

and side-panels too. All vulnerable and inaccessible parts

of the body are made of double-sided, hot-dipped zinc plate. And the exposed parts of

the exhaust system have a special rust-resisting aluminium finish.

Happily, the Volvo 240 Estate is not as expensive as it sounds.

It can be yours for just £7,998, including car tax and VAT. (Not to mention central locking, rear seat belts and internally adjustable door mirrors.)

Any way you look at it, that's not a lot of money for an estate car. Especially an estate car that can turn on a sixpence.

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Address _____

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France sticks to defence expansion despite economic difficulties

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The Government proposes to increase defence spending by an average of 2 per cent a year for the next five years, despite its present economic difficulties, M. Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, announced yesterday. Thirty per cent of the equipment budget will go for nuclear arms.

Details of the defence proposals covering the years 1984-1988 (inclusive), which were revealed yesterday, show that France intends to go ahead with all the defence programmes that were planned before the present economic crisis. However, under the proposed modernization programme of France's independent nuclear deterrent force, two more nuclear ballistic missile submarines will be added to the five already in operation.

The first, bearing M4 multiple-warhead nuclear missiles with a range of more than 2,500 miles, is due to come into operation in 1985, while construction of the second, of a new generation, will begin in 1988 with the aim of bringing it into service in 1994.

The medium range air-ground stand-off rocket is to be added to 15 Mirage IV strategic bombers and is also to equip the new Mirage 2000 fighter-bombers. The Government aims to replace the remaining Mirage IV bombers with mobile SX strategic missiles by 1996.

The first regime of Hades mobile tactical missiles with a range of more than 190 miles, which are due eventually to

replace the Pluto missile with a range of 754 miles, is to be brought into operation in 1992.

The plan envisages some reduction in conventional forces, but not as much as that originally planned last autumn. The Army will suffer the biggest cuts, losing some 22,000 of its 312,000 men, representing a reduction of 7 per cent. The 50,000 French troops stationed in West Germany will not, however, be cut. The Air Force is to lose 3,500 men, and the Navy 3,500.

At the same time, ground forces are to undergo a complete reorganization with the aim of increasing their ability to act rapidly and efficiently alongside their allies when required. France is not part of the Nato military command.

In particular, a new highly mobile force of 50,000 men will be created for possible use both within and outside Europe in addition to those already stationed in West Germany. A

combat helicopter division will also be set up, and the number of combat helicopters increased from 330 to more than 430 by 1988.

Development on the new AMX battle tank will continue with the aim of bringing a total of 1,100 tanks into service at the beginning of the 1990s.

Procurement orders for France's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier are planned for 1986, with a planned commissioning date of the mid-1990s. Initially it will be equipped with Super-Étendard aircraft, but these will later be replaced by a maritime version of the tactical combat aircraft now under development.

The plan envisages that eight nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines will be in service or on order by 1988 instead of the five originally planned.

Defence remained one of the Government's top priorities, M. Hernu said at a press conference to introduce the proposed five-year plan that was approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday. "France must have the means to ensure its security... whatever the hazards of the economic situation, the national defence must not be sacrificed," he said.

The Bill incorporating the five-year plan provides for a total of 830,000m francs (£72,000m) to be spent of defence over the next five years, representing an increase in real terms of 11 per cent over the period. The share of defence spending is expected to rise from 4.2 per cent of gnp to more than 4.5 per cent (Nato definition of defence spending and gnp).



M. Hernu

Marchais survives infighting

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

Deep divisions within the French Communist Party have been temporarily papered over with the unanimous adoption by the party's Central Committee of a report by M. Georges Marchais, the General-Secretary, reaffirming the party's commitment to remain in the Mitterrand Government.

M. Marchais, whose own future was also being widely questioned both within and outside the party, appears to have emerged from the two-day Central Committee meeting, held behind closed doors, with his position strengthened.

A special eight-page supplement in yesterday's *L'Humanité*, the official party newspaper, published in full M. Marchais' report to the Central Committee on Tuesday "without correction or touching up," M. Pierre Juquin, the party spokesman said.

There had been suggestions that the delay in publication was to allow time for amendments after criticism of the report by Central Committee members.

While admitting that there had been some criticism the Government's recent austerity measures, M. Marchais said that that should not hide the many positive achievements of the Socialist-Communist alliance

since coming to power nearly two years ago.

"We have absolutely no reason to blush about the record of this Government in which we have played a full part," he said. "No federation, no coalition, no cell, has called into question our participation in the Government. Only those who do not understand the policy of our party will be surprised."

In a 60-page "public letter" to the Central Committee earlier this week, Mme. Jeannette Thomoz-Vermeersch, the widow of a former general-secretary of the party, who is commonly taken to represent the hardline pro-Moscow faction, accused the party of being "opportunistic", "Atlanticist", and of "having abandoned its revolutionary goals".

"For the first time in history, we see a Communist Party supporting, with the second austerity plan, a policy of open class collaboration directed against the interests of the people," she said.

M. Marchais dismissed Mme. Vermeersch's criticisms in a single sentence, saying that they were totally at odds with the strategy democratically adopted by the Communist Party at its last congress in 1982.

He made no reference to the

anonymous letter, signed by "militants having or having had important responsibilities with the party and in the trade union movement", circulating among party members, which was also sharply critical of the Government's policies. It accused the Socialist party of flirting with the right and remaining "profoundly anti-Soviet and anti-Communist".

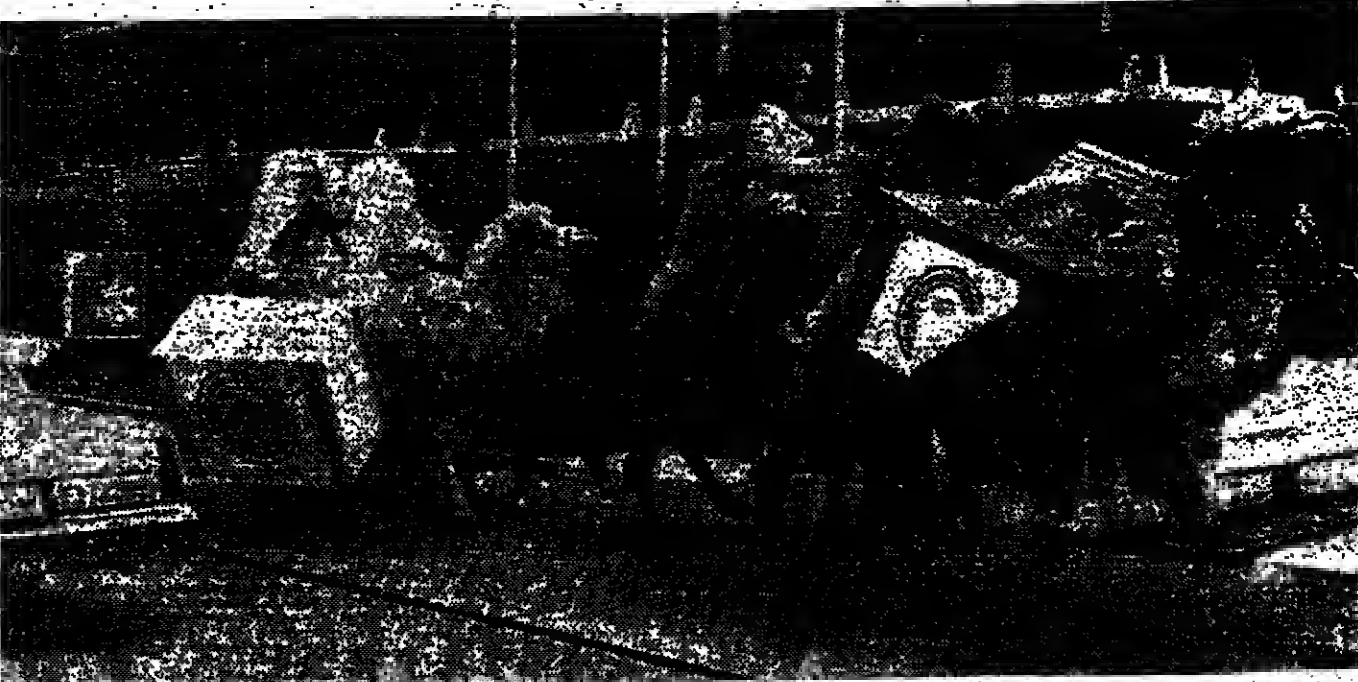
The letter's writers said that they believed the Communist Party should remain in the Government, "but not at any price".

M. Marchais denied that the Communists were "the great losers" of last month's municipal elections, and claimed that the party was seeing the start of a revival of its influence.

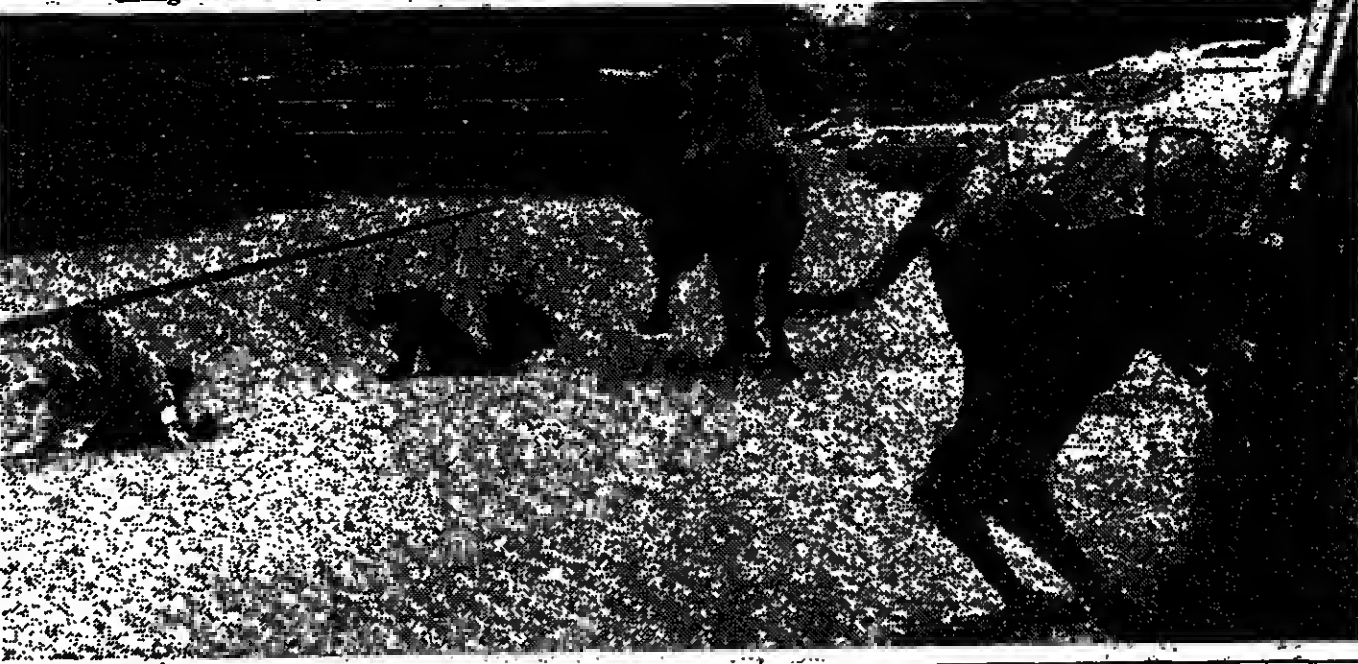
The latest unpublished opinion polls indicate, however, that support for the Communists has fallen to below 10 per cent, having been around 15 per cent in 1981, and 20-25 per cent in the 1970s.

The elections for the European Parliament are coming up next year, and it is thought that the Communists will want to remain in alliance with the Socialists at least until then, for fear of having the weakness of the present position publicly revealed.

The floundering camel train of Basle



The street that went wrong: A camel train which set out sedately (above) through the streets of Basle to publicize a bank's change of location, ended in high comedy (below) when one of the animals shed its load and bolted.



The camel train that went wrong: A camel train which set out sedately (above) through the streets of Basle to publicize a bank's change of location, ended in high comedy (below) when one of the animals shed its load and bolted.

Priest sets picture of Pope aight

From Susan MacDonald, Lisbon

Father Juan Fernandes Krohn, the Spanish priest accused of attempting to assassinate the Pope in Portugal last May, made a brief but colourful court appearance yesterday.

Wearing a green cassock and open-toed sandals, he tried to set fire to a picture of the Pope when asked if he had anything to add to his defence.

He was first brought to trial last October when the judges asked for psychiatric tests to be carried out on the ultra-conservative priest.

He has now been pronounced fit to stand trial and a sentence for a six-year term for attempted murder and possessing a dangerous weapon was imposed.

However, the defence argued that despite Father Krohn's attempts to incriminate himself by his statements against the Pope, there was no evidence that he had tried to use the knife he was carrying, which was only found on him after his arrest. The trial has been suspended until May 2.

Congress will hear Reagan on Salvador

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan will make a rare appearance before a joint congressional session next Wednesday to seek support for his Central America policy and to try and rescue his endangered military aid package for El Salvador.

The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday narrowly voted to reject President Reagan's request for \$500m (£220m) in additional military aid for El Salvador.

He had sought the additional funds as part of a \$1.05bn emergency military aid programme for El Salvador.

The House has also delayed for more than a month the President's request to transfer the remaining \$60m for military aid for El Salvador from other foreign aid accounts.

Administration officials said the President, in his televised speech on Wednesday night, proposed to issue fresh warnings about what he sees as threats from Nicaragua's Sandanista Government, which is backed by Cuba and the Soviet Union, to Central America through its backing of the left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador.

The *Washington Post* yesterday reported aides of the President as saying that he wanted to address a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate because his past speeches on Central America did not receive

Left blamed for Chile explosions

From Florencia Varas, Santiago

Señor Ramón Suárez, the Minister Secretary-General of the Chilean Government, has accused leftist groups, led by the Communist Party, of blowing up railway lines, causing electricity blackouts and planting bombs throughout the country.

Señor Suárez emphasized that they had fired at a security patrol.

The Government has made no comment on the extradition request made by Argentine courts for Mr. Michael Townley, who was born in America and is a former agent of the Chilean secret police. He is sought in connection with the murder of the Chilean General Carlos Prats and his wife, in Buenos Aires in 1979.

Mr. Townley is completing a 10-year sentence in the US for the assassination of Senator Orlando Letelier, a former Chilean minister, in Washington in 1976.

US plea for tougher line on Namibia

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

A report produced by 24 religious, labour and civil rights groups has urged the Reagan Administration to adopt a tougher line with South Africa over the future of Namibia.

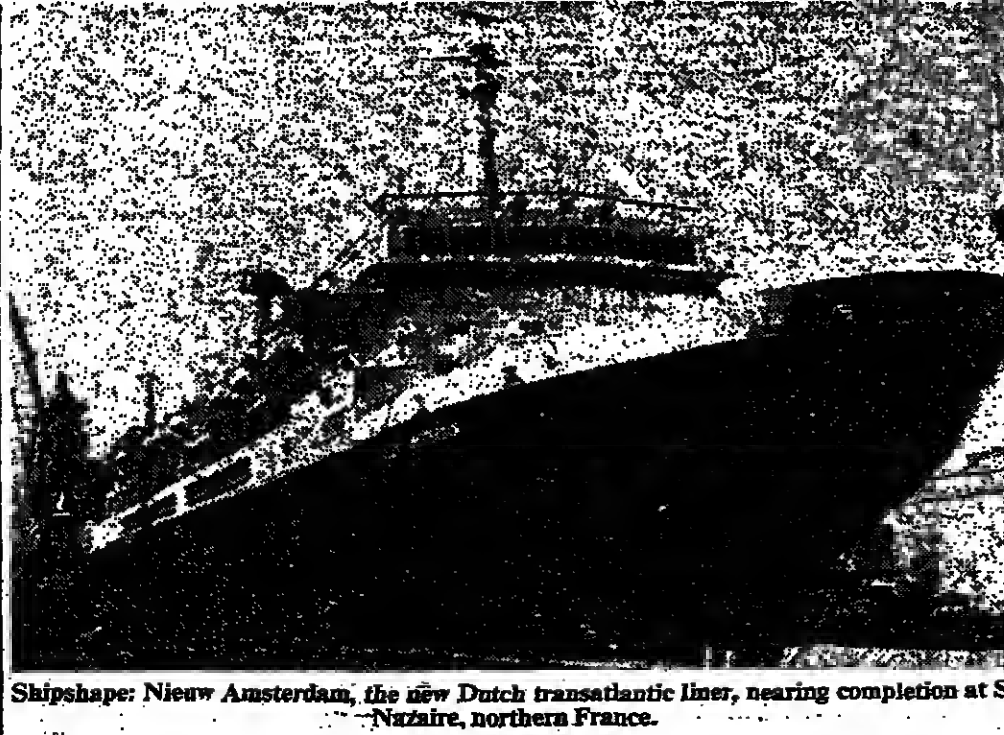
The report calls on the Administration to remove the question of Cuban troops in Angola from the Namibian independence talks. It says: "There is every reason to believe that the Angolans themselves will initiate the withdrawal of Cuban troops when Namibia is independent and the South African threat to Luanda is removed."

It also urges Congress to pass legislation which would prevent United States negotiators at the Namibian independence talks from linking a Cuban withdrawal to the issue of Namibia's independence. Congress should also advise the Administration that it should threaten to impose sanctions against South Africa if it continues to be intransigent.

Such sanctions could include ending the key elements of American policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa such as training for South African nuclear technicians and the exchange of defence attacks.

The report, entitled *Namibia, the crisis in United States Policy towards Southern Africa*, was prepared by TransAfrica, a leading American anti-apartheid organization, in association with the Congressional black caucus and other black groups.

The US, along with Britain, France, West Germany and Canada, has been involved in negotiations since 1977 aimed at winning acceptance by South Africa, black African states and the South West African Peoples Organization (Swapo) of a United Nations plan for Namibia's independence.



Shipshape: Nieuw Amsterdam, the new Dutch transatlantic liner, nearing completion at St Nazaire, northern France.

June date for troubled clergy

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

A meeting of British and Argentine church leaders is to be held in Brazil in June to seek solutions to problems between the two countries, including the difficulties surrounding a possible visit of next-of-kin to Argentine war graves in the Falkland Islands.

Talks between the International Committee of Churches in Rio de Janeiro in June. The issue of a visit by next-of-kin to the Falklands would be high on the agenda.

By then, Dr Morgan would have reported the situation to the Pope as an official party from the British Council of Churches and the British Roman Catholic community visits Rome later this month. He said he hoped for the Pope's blessing on the effort by British churches to seek reconciliation with Argentina.

Although Dr Morgan had been assured that he would be allowed into Argentina, he was refused a visa once he was in Montevideo.

Dr Morgan said he felt the return of a group of next-of-kin from a visit to London and their complaint that the British Government had been more helpful than their own, in attempting to trace Argentine soldiers missing in action, had persuaded the junta that his presence could have been a further embarrassment to them.

● Cash for widows: Cash payments are to be made to the 16 widows of men who died in the sinking of HMS Sheffield in the Falklands conflict - because of an about turn by the Lord Mayor's Sheffield Appeal Fund administrators. Our Sheffield Correspondent writes.

Glenn throws hat in ring at last

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Although the presidential election is still 19 months away, the 1984 campaign hotbed yesterday with the anticipated announcement by Senator John Glenn, the former astronaut, that he is to seek the Democratic nomination and a decision by the Democratic Party that it is to hold next year's crucial convention in San Francisco. The Democratic candidate will be chosen at the convention.

The Ohio senator, the first American to orbit the Earth, is the sixth Democrat to throw his hat into the ring. Other contenders are former Vice-President Walter Mondale, Senator Alan Cranston, Senator Gary Hart, Senator Ernest Hollings and Mr. Reubin Askew.

Senator Glenn, aged 61, is at present running second in the popularity stakes to Mr. Mondale. However, some analysts believe the Democrats may eventually decide to back Senator Glenn on the grounds that his Eisenhower-type image may provide the best chance of

Black journalist jailed over rebel leaflets

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A black journalist on the *Sowetan* newspaper has been sentenced to two and a half years in prison for collecting and possessing literature published by the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), one of the two main organisations of black nationalist organisations.

The journalist, Mr. Joe Thlole, was convicted on the basis of his possession of a single document entitled *The New Road*. Three other blacks, Mr. Sipho Ngoboo, Mr. Nhlanguiso Sibanda and Mr. Steven Mzolo were also jailed for sentences ranging between two-and-a-half and three years.

Like Mr. Thlole they were found guilty of possessing PAC literature under the terms of the Terrorism Act. They had all been in detention for 10 months before their trial opened. The magistrate turned down a request by defence counsel for suspended sentences because of the danger to the state posed by PAC literature.

Lebanese release four bomb blast witnesses

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Lebanese police yesterday released without explanation the four witnesses they have been holding since Monday's bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut, and it appears they are on their way to discovering the identity of the attackers.

Their only lead so far is a report by two witnesses who say they saw a large van, apparently burdened by a heavy load, force its way into the embassy roadway shortly before the explosion. The van, packed with an estimated 500lb of explosives, was blown to pieces when it slammed into an embassy wall.

As rescue workers continued digging under the debris, a few shots rang out from an army checkpoint nearby, sending about 200 Marines guarding the embassy scuttling for cover. They later returned to their positions after it was understood that the Lebanese Army had fired at a driver who refused to stop at a road block.

The incident was just one example of the tension that now

Enemy of Machel killed in Pretoria

Maputo (Reuters, AFP)

Orlando Cristina, a Portuguese national shot dead in South Africa, was regarded here as the principal figure behind a black, army rebel guerrilla movement that has shaken the Mitterrand government of President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

He was believed to be one of the top three men in the right-wing Mozambique National Resistance, which Mozambique and other black African states accuse Pretoria of training and equipping as part of a regional campaign of destabilization.

Cristina was found through the head in a Pretoria suburb on Sunday. South African police announced yesterday. They said an investigation was under way but no arrests had been made.

\$1bn turns up in 'black' cash

Istanbul (Reuters)

Well over a billion dollars (about £670m) in previously undeclared earnings and assets, of "black money", has come to light under a special tax amnesty launched by the Turkish Government.

The money, 40 per cent of the cash in circulation in Turkey, turned up when the Finance Ministry said that all previously untaxed cash would become legal if it was deposited at the state agricultural bank for three days. Depositors who complied will have to pay a tax of only 1 per cent.

Former slave dies at 121

Chicago (AFP)

A former slave born two months after the American Civil War began has died here aged 121. Documents produced by the family of May Duckworth gave her birth date as June 4, 1861, in the state of Mississippi.

She had 12 children, including a son now 92, and her 30 descendants span six generations. She attained grand old age at an early age to having carried loads on her head.

Plea by wife

Oslo (AP)

Norway's Justice Ministry is offering free legal help to battered women in an effort to bring women-beaters to justice. The offer extends to all female victims of men, whether housewives mistreated by husbands, unmarried women victimized by boy friends or prostitutes abused by clients or procurers.

Women first

Oslo (AP)

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Boeing sued

Philadelphia (AP)

Nine legal actions have been filed against Boeing by families of British and American sky divers killed when a Chinook helicopter crashed at Mannheim, West Germany, last September during an air show. Forty-six people died. Each action seeks \$3m (2m) damages.

Freedom dome

Paris (Reuters)

M. Philippe Augouard, a French diplomat jailed in Afghanistan in 1979, is to be released soon, according to a letter from the Afghan authorities to M. Georges Marchais, the French Communist Party leader.

Rackets charge

Dar es Salaam (AFP)

Tanzania has accused Mr. Edward Barongo, a former deputy minister for agriculture of undermining the country's economy by helping racketeers to obtain scarce commodities for sale on the black market.

12-hour ordeal

Oslo (AFP)

A 16-year-old Vietnamese boy clinging to an oil drum for 12 hours in the South China Sea before being picked up by a Norwegian vessel, up by a Norwegian vessel, up by a Norwegian vessel, up by a Norwegian vessel.

Nation on skis

Martigny, Switzerland (AP)

About 3.2 million people, 60 per cent of the 6.3 million Swiss nationals and foreigners living in Switzerland, are skiing, a federal minister announced.

Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.

من الامم

One dissident held but Russia agrees to let another leave

The dissident writer Georgy Vladimov said yesterday that he had been told to report to the emigration office in Moscow next Tuesday to receive exit visas to West Germany for himself, his wife and his mother-in-law.

But on the same day, Mr Naum Meiman, aged 72, a dissident, was taken into custody by the KGB and questioned by the Moscow city prosecutor on alleged anti-Soviet activities.

The decision to allow Mr Vladimov to emigrate brings to an end a long struggle between the writer and the Soviet authorities. Mr Vladimov was a well known Soviet author until he became head of the Moscow branch of Amnesty International, and wrote a number of works critical of Stalinism and Soviet repressions.

He is best known in the West for his short novel *Faithful Russian*, the allegorical tale of a

prison-camp guard dog who adapts to the way which followed Khrushchev's partial dismantling of Stalin's Gulag system.

Last year Mr Vladimov, who is 52, was told by the KGB to renounce his anti-Soviet activities and asked to name other dissidents. He refused, and wrote to Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, in January, reluctantly asking for permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Mr Vladimov told *The Times* that the "hard" line has been formally invited to leave for a year on modern Russian literature at Cologne university.

"Of course I understand that if they let me go I may not be going for one year but forever," Mr Vladimov said. He said he would not be surprised if he was stripped of his Soviet citizenship once he was in the West.

Emigration was a very serious and difficult step,

especially for a writer of 52 who now risks losing contact with his native soil, he said.

Mr Vladimov, who is in poor health and has already suffered one heart attack, said he would have preferred to leave Russia in the summer.

His case has been taken up by leading Western figures, including the West German writer Siegfried Lenz, and was the subject of talks between Herr Hans Jochen Vogel, the West German Social Democratic leader and Mr Andropov in Moscow in January.

Mr Naum Meiman has been a leading human rights activist in Russia for many years, and was a founder member of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group. The group, set up to monitor Soviet observance of the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki agreements, was dissolved last September after sustained KGB pressure on its leaders, including Dr

Andrei Sakharov, the physicist, and his wife Elena Bonner.

Mr Meiman has one the less continued to collect information on human rights abuses. The KGB searched his flat earlier this week and removed what it called "slandering anti-soviet material" as well as his typewriter and a tape recorder.

Also active in the Jewish movement, Mr Meiman has been seeking permission to emigrate to Israel for nearly 10 years.

● **Americans held:** Two men in a group of American visitors were held by police for two hours yesterday after making a public demand for an exit visa for young music teacher Boris Molchanov, who married an American woman in 1979, AFP reports.

The group released multi-coloured balloons, bearing the words "Release Boris", inside the Hotel Cosmos hall and distributed pamphlets



Trying again: Stanca Papisoin, the Romanian deported from Britain, applying for a British entry visa in Vienna yesterday.

Bases pact ratified by Spanish Parliament

From Harry Debelius Madrid

The Spanish Parliament has ratified by an overwhelming majority an agreement which allows the United States to continue using air and naval bases in Spain.

The powerful lower house, the Congress of Deputies, approved the agreement by 249 votes in favour, nine against, with seven abstentions. The only serious organized opposition to the proposal came from the Spanish Communist Party.

The text of the pact was the same as the one signed last July by the preceding Government, which was dominated by the Centre Democratic Union. But the addition of a protocol negotiated by the Socialist Government makes it clear that the agreement does not limit Spain's options with regard to its participation in Nato.

Without ratification of the pact, the US Air Force and Navy would have had one year to get out of Spain beginning next May 21.

The commitment, known as the Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation, authorizes the United States to continue to operate from a big naval air base at Rota in the south-west, have air bases at Torrejon near Madrid, Moron, near Seville, and Zaragoza, as well as supply bases and communications installations in other parts of the country.

Drive stepped up to harass Solidarity

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish authorities appear to have intensified their campaign against the underground Solidarity movement in an attempt to stifle as many potential demonstrators as possible before the papal visit.

As underground activists prepare leaflets for the May Day rallies planned by Solidarity, police have moved in on several printing presses, rounding up many of the disbanded union's supporters.

The latest swoop came in Czestochowa where the Pope is due to spend four nights during his June visit. Several thousand leaflets were confiscated, according to an official communiqué, 35 people were detained for questioning and at least eight have been formally arrested. More than nine cities are involved in the crackdown, and investigations are said to be particularly intensive in towns on the papal schedule including Katowice, Cracow and Poznan.

Some of these actions have involved arrests, in others, suspects were simply issued with warnings that if they took part in the May Day protests, arrest would follow.

This campaign is being accompanied by a propaganda drive against the underground leadership and Mr Lech Walesa, chairman of Solidarity, which is being accused of trying to sabotage the papal visit. The official commentaries never really make clear why such a cancellation would be in the interests of Solidarity. However, the tone leaves no doubt about the Government's response to Mr Walesa's offer to hold talks opening the way for national reconciliation.

The official view remains that Mr Walesa represents nobody but himself and is therefore not a negotiating partner, a view that is reinforced (from the government perspective) by Mr Walesa's openly declared contacts with the illegal underground Solidarity.

Mr Walesa is therefore clearly not optimistic.

At the same time, the Polish Government is stepping up pressure on cultural associations, many of whom provided intellectual support to the Solidarity movement. The debate about whether the writers' and film makers' union can be reactivated continues and the authorities have now decided to suspend the artists' union. This is because the leadership of the union has refused to retract eight statements released over the past year critical of the status quo.

Meanwhile the World Jewish Congress, one of the most important Jewish organizations taking part in the official ceremonies marking the fortieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, has said that it will withdraw from the formal events after "a week of provocation and manipulation".

Many Jews have been critical of the way that the anniversary is being staged - above all the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization - and some have also been critical of the way that Solidarity turned one unofficial ceremony into a political rally.

Farm price rift over green rates

From Ian Murray Luxembourg

EEC agriculture ministers meet here again next Wednesday in an attempt to agree Community farm prices for the year ahead. The price package is already nearly a month overdue for agreement, and failure next week might well make it impossible for a settlement before June.

From Britain's point of view the remaining argument is a technical one, which Mr Peter Walker, the Agriculture Minister, will be able to watch rather snugly from the sidelines.

He has already been assured that the prices themselves will rise by only a modest 4.2 per cent overall, which puts an end to the need for him to continue to argue for price restraint.

But next week's meeting threatens to be particularly difficult precisely because the price settlement is so low.

This means that the countries who are members of the European Monetary System exchanges can only obtain increases in line with the value of their "green" exchange rates, which adjust prices in line with the relative strength of real exchange rates.

Press challenges De Lorean ban

From Christopher Thomas, New York

Associated Press and the Los Angeles Herald Examiner will challenge the ban before an appeals judge next week. When imposing it, District Judge Robert Talang said merely that he was trying to ensure a fair trial for Mr De Lorean. The case is due to begin in the summer.

Protests about the ban have also been formally presented to the judge by NBC News, CBS News, and the Greater Los Angeles Press Club. The fear is that the ban will set a precedent for other criminal trials, which traditionally receive extensive pretrial publicity.

Associated Press protested that "there is nothing so special about this case or Mr De Lorean's status that would warrant affording him this unprecedented protection".

100 found murdered in a cave

From Geoffrey Matthews Bogota

The discovery of the remains of more than 100 peasants, apparently shot by drug racketeers, has caused horror and outrage in Colombia. The remains, estimated to be about six years old, have been found in a cave in an isolated region of the northern Cesar Department.

Señor Edgardo Pupo Governor of Cesar, said after visiting the cave that the massacre must have been "a real holocaust carried out with Nazi-style efficiency".

Cesar is one of the departments in Colombia's Atlantic-Caribbean region where racketeers have long been active in overseeing the cultivation of marijuana on a vast scale. Although over the last two years the region has ceased to be a centre of marijuana cultivation, it remains the main point from which marijuana and cocaine are smuggled across the Caribbean to Florida by air or boat.

In recent years, the United States has estimated that Colombia has been the source of 80 per cent of both the marijuana and cocaine (processed in Colombia from coca paste brought in from Bolivia and Peru) consumed in North America. However, due to the increasing cultivation of marijuana in the United States the racketeers currently appear to be switching their priorities to cocaine production.

At the estimated time of the massacre the Cesar department would still have been enjoying its "marijuana bonanza." Like many other peasants in isolated regions of Colombia, the victims of the massacre are thought to have cultivated marijuana for the racketeers for better money than they could earn from more traditional crops like cotton, rice or corn.

However, their earnings would have represented a tiny fraction of actual profits and one theory is that the massacre was caused by rebellion over wages. Another is that the racketeers staged a crude land seizure.

Señor Pupo declared bitterly: "This is a terrible event for the department, Colombia and the world, but especially for us in a civilized and democratic country which unfortunately has for some years been in the hands of drug traffickers who impose the law of death."

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Turkey seeks Western aid against Armenians

Ankara (NYT) - Turkey has called on Western governments for help in preventing attacks on Turkish diplomats by radical Armenian groups.

It fears such attacks might increase as the anniversary approaches of mass arrests and deportations of Armenians from Istanbul on April 24, 1915. Under the Ottomans, most Armenians were deported to Syrian desert areas and hundreds of thousands died.

The Armenian patriarch of Istanbul has appealed to Armenians around the world to fight against Armenian extremists who have killed 26 Turkish diplomats in the past decade.

At a meeting of Nato defence ministers last month, Mr Haluk Bayulken of Turkey asked for cooperation against Armenian attacks.

In addition, Mr Iker Turkmen, the Foreign Minister, visited Beirut, believed to be the main base for Armenian activists. He flew there on March 17, six days after Mr Galip Balkar, Turkey's ambassador in Belgrade, died of gunshot wounds.

In Lebanon Mr Turkmen met President Amin Gemayel and Mr Ghazi al-Wazzan, the Prime Minister, and was said to have asked for help. He was reported to have pointed out that the two gunmen who shot the envoy in Belgrade travelled there on Lebanese passports.

Turkish officials have said they know little about the size, leadership and financing of the Armenian groups.

There appear to be two main groups. One is the Justice Commandos, described as pro-Western. The other is the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, said to be pro-communist. Its leader is thought to have left Beirut for a base in Cyprus, Greece or France, according to some officials, but its members are said to remain in Lebanon.

Officials here said they believed the financing came essentially from Armenian businessmen, carried out of conviction or through extortion.



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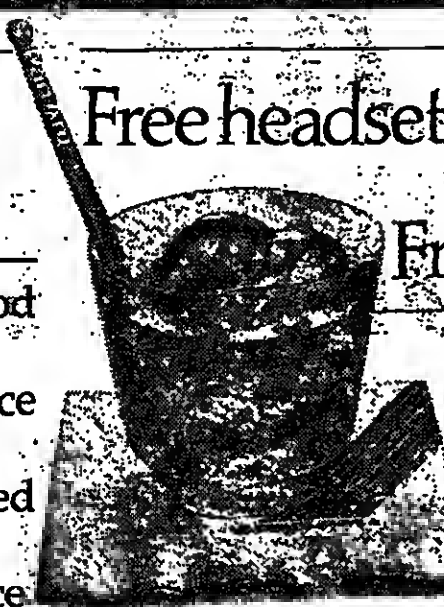


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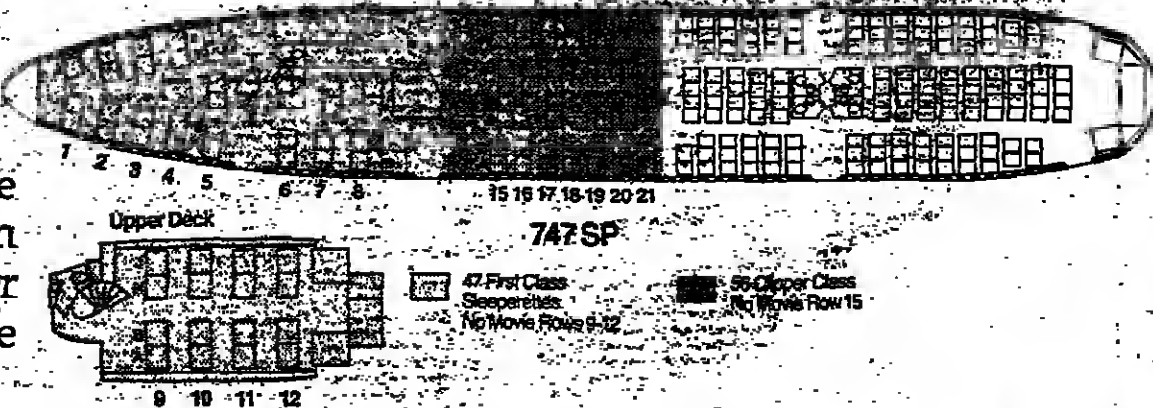
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All goes wrong on first sour day of tour for the royal couple

From Granis Forbes, PA. Court Correspondent, Wellington

A series of rows overshadowed the tours of the Prince and Princess of Wales in New Zealand yesterday as photographers downed cameras, a political agitator protested in court, some MPs felt smothered because they had not received a special invitation, and a champagne toast went sour.

But under an overcast sky, from which came regular torrents of rain, the royal couple dutifully smiled throughout. It was the first unhappy day after five weeks on tour.

The four-week visit to Australia without a hitch and the representatives of the British press were surprised on Sunday to be greeted in Auckland with the news that the visit to New Zealand had been "cancelled" with only the local media in mind.

After days of pleading and argument, matters came to a head in Waiararua, when British journalists, who had faithfully followed the tour and made it across the star of hundreds of front pages on her first foreign visit, staged a boycott.

The final straw came when Mr Dick Butler, the media liaison officer in New Zealand, decided to prevent photographers from using a press lorry during a royal walkabout.

When British cameramen protested, he called the police and told security officers he was frightened the British contingent would smash up the lorry.

Reporters, who have been prevented from seeing the Prince and Princess during walkabouts by a line of white-helmets, police officers, agreed to join the protest and the walkabout through the city centre went unobserved by the British Media.

It was agreed that the boycott would continue until matters were resolved with New Zealand Government officials.

After visiting a small Maori skill centre, the Prince and Princess went on to lunch with Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister.

Emotions were also running high at Wellington's District Court, where a tattooed Maori who bared his bottom to the Prince and Princess on Wednesday appeared before magistrates.

There was uproar when Mr Te Epa Mihinui and another protester, Mr Diane Prince, refused to enter the dock. Mr Mihinui, aged 41, described as a political agitator, denied a charge of disorderly behaviour. He said he would have pleaded guilty if the charge.

had been showing contempt for the Royal Family.

He was remanded to appear in court in June.

Some MPs were also unhappy last night at being excluded from a ball at Government House at which the Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Edward were guests of honour.

At the ball, a champagne toast to the Queen's fifty-first birthday went sour when both the Prince and the Princess pushed their glasses aside after a token sip.

Disaster struck when Sir David Beattie, the Governor-General asked the 600 guests at the function to raise their glasses in a loyal toast. No sooner were the words out of his mouth than he realised that every glass of wine had been removed by diligent waitresses.

After an awkward pause the royal couple and those at the top table were given a small measure of Spanish champagne.

Both the Prince and Princess, after taking one sip from the bubbly, toyed with their glasses in embarrassment. As a waitress whisked the offending drinks away, Prince Charles tactfully remarked: "What a waste of champagne."



The Prince and Princess of Wales dancing at the Wellington ball last night. Space was at a premium and the royal couple were stranded at the edge of the floor.

Carrington derides 'megaphone diplomacy' with the Russians

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Lord Carrington called on the West last night to start a new dialogue with the Soviet Union, as opposed to a silent wall of nerves broken only by bursts of "megaphone diplomacy".

The former Foreign Secretary also urged Europe to start playing a bigger defence role, but as a complement not an alternative to the Atlantic alliance.

He told the International Institute for Strategic Studies that he was not preaching a return to the détente policies of the 1970s. But we should be ready to do business with the Russians when it benefited both sides and when Moscow made it possible.

"Indiscriminate sanctions against the Soviet Union are neither feasible nor desirable. If they did not work against Mr Smith in Rhodesia, they are unlikely to bring down the Soviet empire," he said, in the annual Alastair Buchan memorial lecture.

It should not be our aim for anything to give them the excuse for strengthening their economic grip on Eastern Europe or repressing the aspirations of their own people.

Lord Carrington, who is now chairman of General Electric, said that the West had squandered its advantages in the past by what he called "competitive détente", offering semi-strategic exports at absurdly low interest rates in an undignified scramble for Eastern markets.

Now countries had overreacted by threatening to sever valuable trade links. "I doubt if the Russians will be very impressed by these threats while America continues to supply them with bread and Europe with butter, and while the Poles go short of both."

In his most comprehensive review of international affairs since leaving the Foreign Office a year ago, Lord Carrington said we were witnessing the slow decline of the Soviet empire, but should beware of trying to bring down the crumbling edifice with one last shove.

"Our policy in Eastern Europe as elsewhere must be to encourage reform rather than

revolution. Sporadic convulsions ruthlessly put down by the Russians and their clients cannot be to the interest of these peoples themselves.

The Russians must learn and we must do what we can to teach them over the years that their security interests are not best served by an endless cycle of repression, but by giving the people of Eastern Europe a voice in their own destiny."

In an analysis of how Europe could pull its weight more effectively within Nato, he favoured a better division of labour between the member states, with Britain concentrating her own contribution through the Royal Navy.

The British, he said, with European and American support, had just sailed 8,000 miles to protect a handful of their kith and kin on a remote island. Could anyone doubt that we would fight to protect 55 million people at home?

There was now a little less talk about neutralism in Western Europe.

Leading article, page 13

French nuclear test causes outrage

Wellington (AFP) New Zealand and Australia yesterday condemned France's latest underground nuclear test explosion in the South Pacific, with the former saying that it would revive "feelings of outrage" in the region.

In Canberra, Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, expressed deep disappointment that France had gone ahead with the tests despite the strong opposition his Government had conveyed earlier this month. He expected to discuss the matter in Paris next month.

There was no immediate official reaction to the French explosion elsewhere in Asia, but a Philippine Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated the country's general opposition to nuclear testing in the Pacific.

New Zealand scientists yesterday confirmed that France had exploded a 50-kiloton-yield nuclear bomb on Wednesday at its underground Mururoa test site. It is believed to be the first French nuclear test since a 70-kiloton explosion last July.

Soviet drive against Afghan insurgents

Delhi (NYT) - A Western diplomat here has said that a big Soviet-led offensive was under way in north-west Afghanistan against insurgent positions. Heavy casualties were reported in the fighting, which was said to be continuing on the outskirts of Herat, near the Iranian border.

The informant quoted a diplomatic report from Kabul as saying that Soviet and Afghan troops has opened the assault after making heavy air attacks on areas around Herat suspected of sheltering Muslim guerrillas opposed to the Babrak Karmal regime.

The drive, which apparently began some time this month, is reported to have come in the wake of big insurgent attacks on Soviet and Afghan forces. The offensive, came, said, preparations in Kabul for observances of the fourth anniversary of the military coup of April 27, 1978, which placed the first of three pro-Soviet Marxist governments in power in Afghanistan.

Heavy fighting was also reported this month between Soviet troops and insurgents around the cities of Kandahar, Ghazni and Mazar-i-Sharif, near the Afghan-Soviet frontier. An insurgent success was reported from the northern Panjshir Valley, through which the main highway connecting

Kabul with the Soviet Union runs. These three rival Afghan insurgent factions were reported to have joined forces for an ambush on April 1 of a large Soviet-Afghan military convoy.

Some Russian soldiers were reported to have been killed. The three rebel groups involved, in what the diplomat said was a rare display of unity were identified as the Hezbe-Islami, the Jamat-i-Islami and the Harakat-i-Islam. The diplomat said Mr Ahmed Ihsoud, the guerrilla leader in the valley, did not participate.

On April guerrillas were reported to have overrun a military post in southern Kabul, killing or capturing all the troops. The insurgent were said to have been aided by an Afghan soldier at the post.

The Diplomatic report added that Kabul had been relatively quiet recently. On April 3, however, a noisy and violent demonstration erupted in the centre of the capital after a Soviet soldier shot and killed a young Afghan student during a brief quarrel.

Hundreds of Kabul residents were said to have shouted anti-Soviet slogans and hurled rocks at the Russian soldier and his vehicle after the shooting. Order was restored when Afghan troops arrived, disarmed the Russian and took him away.

Bonn given border death details

From Michael Blyton Bonn An East-West German transit commission meeting in East Berlin yesterday discussed in detail the death of a West German traveller in East Germany as the reverberations of the affair continued to echo through political circles here.

The East Germans delivered a detailed explanation of how Herr Rudolf Burkert met his death, and this has been passed on to Bonn. East Germany has meanwhile invited a West German forensic expert to make an on-the-spot investigation and talk to witnesses and to the interrogating officers.

The West Germans complained to the commission of the increasing harassment of travellers to West Berlin. Newspapers gave a warning yesterday that people who gave even chocolate or cigarettes to East Germans in route could face fines of up to 700 marks (£180). They said border guards were increasingly resorting to spot checks on the air pressure in spare tyres and imposing instant fines in cases of infringement of the regulations.

Meanwhile the Social Democratic opposition has sharply attacked Herr Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Christian Social Union, for his claim that Herr Burkert was murdered.

The SPD said he was trying to force the Government of change its policies towards East Germany, and said ideology was more important to him than a patient striving for the alleviation of human conditions in East Germany.

Survivors tell of yacht attack

Hongkong (Reuter) - Four survivors of the attack on a West German yacht in the South China Sea had to bury a friend at sea when he died only a day before they were rescued after nine days adrift, the skipper said yesterday.

Herr Peter Marx described how his 51ft yacht Sidharta was hit and set ablaze by artillery fire as it approached Vietnamese-occupied Amboyna Can Island, one of the remote, disputed Spratly Group, on Easter Sunday.

He said the attackers, whom he would not identify, had fired no warning shots, were flying no flag and "obviously did not want any witnesses". "You can work out for yourself who they were," he said in a radio-telephone interview from the cargo ship which picked up the survivors from a small dinghy on Tuesday in the busy sea lanes between Singapore and Hongkong.

Herr Diethelm Müller was killed during the attack but Herr Gero Baad survived until Monday, though badly hurt.

"I made a thorough check that he was no longer alive," Herr Marx said. "We said a prayer. Then we had to push him over the side. It was very sad." Next day they were spotted.

BONN: the Bonn Government yesterday condemned the shelling of the Sidharta and a Foreign Ministry statement said Bonn would make representations to the country responsible as soon as it was absolutely clear who had fired on the yacht.

Hanoi condemns Peking

Hanoi (AFP) - Vietnam accused China yesterday of another cross-border operation and renewed shelling attacks. A communique carried by the official Vietnam news agency said that Chinese gunners had fired 50 mortar rounds on a village in Cao Bang province, killing two people and wounding four others.

It said that a group of between eight and 10 Chinese soldiers had entered the north-west Vietnamese province of Hoang Lien Son and opened fire on the population, wounding a certain number of people.

The same day, the communique said, dozens of Chinese shells fell on a part of Cao Bang and the neighboring province of Ha Tuyen. It did not indicate what the casualties were.

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Life-saving screen tests

Cancer of the breast and of the ovary together account for more than 16,000 deaths to British women every year. The figures would be dramatically reduced if diagnoses were made earlier.

Screening breasts with soft tissue X-ray, mammography, enables radiologists to find the tumour when it is still so small that it is impossible to feel with the hand. At this stage a patient's chances of complete recovery are good.

Professor Stuart Campbell, who screens patients with ultrasound at King's College Hospital, hopes to be able to recognize such small changes in the size and shape of the ovary that cancer may be diagnosed at a stage when treatment will be able to change the present 75 per cent death rate to 90 per cent cure rate.

Further advances in screening are announced this week by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Dr Richard Bulbrook and his team in cooperation with Mr John Hayward from Guy's Hospital, have for the past 30 years been analysing the blood and urine of 13,000 Guernsey women.

Significant abnormalities have been detected in the hormone levels in the urine of women who later developed breast cancer. For 10 years before a cancer can be detected the urine of women at greatest risk contains less than usual amounts of androgen steroid metabolites. Postmenopausal women who have higher than usual blood levels of prolactin, and abnormal patterns in twice the risk of breast cancer in women who are at risk of cancer of the ovaries are also found to be abnormal.

Not only will these biochemical findings be particularly useful in that they extend and complement the radiological means of early diagnosis which already exist, but the Imperial Cancer Research Fund hopes that it may be possible to find means of changing the hormonal balance in a patient so that these particular cancers become less common.

There is evidence that taking the Pill, which is one way of changing the hormone balance, does achieve this.

An eternal race

This year is the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of the death of William Thackeray and the intellectual end of London clubland is honouring his memory. The Reform has already had a dinner to pay its respects, the Athenaeum is holding a reception in July. The irony is that if the great man had been in a position to attend in body rather than in spirit, the wine drunk would certainly have exacerbated the distress he suffered from a post gonococcal urethral stricture. Appropriately, in this year gonorrhoea is again in the news.

Effective treatment of gonorrhoea became possible only with the introduction of sulphonomides in the 1930s; before then patients were subjected to blisters and urethral wash-outs with powerful antiseptic solutions, procedures euphemistically known as deep irrigation. After this treatment about 5 per cent of the sufferers developed, as did Thackeray, varying degrees of urinary tract obstruction, probably more likely to have been due to the use of the instruments than the disease itself.

Since the 1930s there has been a recurring story of an apparently miracle drug being found to treat gonorrhoea, only for the bacteria to become resistant to it.

The value of sulphonomides as a treatment was rendered useless by the way in which the Germans made it readily available, without supervision, to their troops in Italy. Penicillin, despite being very scarce, superseded sulphonomides in the British Army on the express orders of General Montgomery, but this, in its turn has been beaten by some of the strains of the gonococcal bacterium bred during and after the Vietnam war producing an enzyme which destroys penicillin.

Fortunately, two comparatively new antibiotics, cefotaxime and cefotaxin are available, but if the race between gonorrhoea and science continues, sooner or later the bacteria may go into the lead.

Beating breakdowns

When Beryl Downing, *The Times* shipping editor, was treated for breast cancer at St Bartholomew's Hospital this month, she had radiotherapy with the first Varian standing wave linear accelerator in Britain (*The Times*, April 20). It is due to be opened officially by Sir Eric Scowen next Wednesday.

The NHS could not afford to replace the existing old machine, so the special trustees of the hospital, a charitable organization, paid more than £250,000 for a new American one. The cost of the installation was borne by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund as a major contribution in support of the work it does with the Cancer Unit at Bart's.

Increasingly, radio cobalt units have been replaced by travelling wave linear accelerators. The manufacturers of the Varian machine standing wave accelerator claim that the new machine has the advantage of greater reliability and improved focusing.

Doctors always try to ensure that a patient's programme of treatment, which has to be carefully calculated, should not be compromised by the equipment failure; by reducing the electronic complexity of the linear accelerator the possibility of breakdown is reduced.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford
Medical correspondent

The many lives of Lana Turner



It is less than 10 minutes from Lana Turner's high-rise condominium in Beverly Hills to my hotel, but she arrives in a chauffeur-driven limousine, accompanied by her hairdresser.

Miss Turner is 62 and she has been a Hollywood star for 45 years. Other sex symbols - Harlow and Hayworth, Mansfield and Monroe - have self-destructed, but the original Sweater Girl has survived seven marriages, dozens of highly publicized love affairs, the fatal stabbing of her gangster lover by her 14-year-old daughter, a drinking problem and, among such classics as *The Bad and the Beautiful* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, some pretty awful films.

She knows that a star never agrees to go anywhere without a limousine, a chauffeur and a hairdresser, never goes out unless she is looking her best. "When I leave home, I'm on," she says.

Her entrance is impeccably gracious. A tilt of the short blonde hair-don, newly crimped by her escort. A hand, tipped by perfect pink nails of alarming length, extended in warm greeting. She sashays elegantly across the room in well cut black slacks, a tasteful glittery blouse and high-heeled black slippers. The movie queen up there on the screen with the big bust is, in fact, petite. That's the word she would use. I think. Just 5ft 3in with the flawless face and figure of a well-preserved 30-year-old, and if plastic surgery has helped a bit, we should all try it.

Miss Turner - you don't find yourself calling her "Lana" - speaks slowly, with a lot of lovely hand gestures, and her language is relentlessly refined.

She was discovered in the ice cream parlour opposite her school when she was 15 and became a star with her first film, when she was 17. She went to school on the MGM lot with the young Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney, gossiped and

Shirley Lowe meets the woman who kept a generation of gossip writers busy

giggled over lunch at Rmnanoff's with Linda Darnell and Betty Grable. "We never stepped out without gloves and a hat," she says. "We were glamorous and we looked it. They were beautiful, beautiful years. I knew the golden era of Hollywood."

It was, she says, "all innocent fun" and, until she was 17, her only sexual experience was necking and a little petting. "I'd always fought off my eager young dates when they wanted to touch my breasts." Three or four husbands no, Miss Turner is still "dating", referring to her "engagement ring" and noting, as she sighs a good looking man, that her "heart beats a little faster".

Her hand is on her heart now as she says: "Thank God I was never called on to do nude scenes. I watch some of the things today and even when they kiss - the mouths opening before they get together, the tongues lashing in and out, the bodies grinding - it's all so different from the beautiful kisses we had with our lovely leading men." She blinks delicate little kisses into the air. "It offends me, it's ugly. I turn my eyes away."

Louis B. Mayer once summoned the young Lana to his office and berated her for keeping late hours and getting her name in the papers: "The only thing you're interested in is..." and he pointed to his crotch. The world has been inclined to agree with Mr Mayer, after reading countless tales about Miss Turner's insatiable way with her leading men and good-looking stagehands. Yes, she published her autobiography, *Lana, the Lady, the Legend, the Truth*, to set the record straight.

She is, she says, a sensual woman but not a sexy one. "The public has always seen me as a sexpot, jumping

in and out of bed with men all the time and having romances, but most times I married my romances."

Writing about her time with Tyrone Power, who broke her heart by marrying Linda Christian rather than Lana when his divorce came through, she confesses that she was not a great companion in bed: "What we shared was far more important than the physical side of our love... sex was never, with any man, the first thing on my mind... it was so much what I symbolized, so much of my image, that I closed myself off to the pleasures of the act. Holding hands, cuddling, being close together in bed, all those intimacies I enjoyed more than the actual sex... his gentleness was part of the reason I loved him."

Stars in the 1940s and 1950s were expected to be pure in public and the Turner-Power affair made headlines. "In those days you didn't live with someone, you married them," says Miss Turner. "Just look at what happened to Ingrid Bergman when she defied the studios and had Rossellini's babies without marrying him."

Lana Turner had two abortions for propriety's sake and it sometimes seems as though her life has been ruled by reporters. "If I blew my nose wrong they'd write about it," she says, "and if they had nothing to write about they'd say: 'Let's see what we can make up about Lana Turner today.'" On the morning after her third marriage, to society playboy Bob Fopping, Lana and her bridegroom stepped out of their honeymoon bungalow in find Hedda Hopper finishing up the remains of their breakfast and waiting for an "exclusive" on the wedding night.

"She was a crass, rude woman," says Miss Turner, "but what do you

do? Tell her to get her so and so ass out of here?" It was when this marriage failed that Miss Turner attempted suicide. "My love hadn't been enough. I was completely unlovable, a wholly unworthy human being."

This was the weakest moment of her life. Somehow she has always found the strength to cope with public humiliation and private rejection; when her marriages failed, when her men deserted her, when she was censured over the upbringing of her daughter, Cheryl had a classic Hollywood childhood with lavish parties and furs and strings of scepters and ponies and a mother who, with the best will in the world, was forced to spend more time in the studio than the nursery. There were "special" schools and psychiatric centres and plenty of publicized rows between mother and daughter, but Cheryl, now 39, is running a successful real estate business in Honolulu and has turned out better than Miss Turner ever hoped: "I not only love her as a mother, I respect her. I'm the first to look at her and say: 'I like that young woman.'"

The two of them still find it impossible to talk freely about the terrible night when Cheryl stabbed Johnny Stompanato to death with a kitchen knife after she heard him threatening to beat up her mother. They call it "the happening." But in spite of the trial justifiable homicide and the trauma of seeing her child behind bars, Lana Turner went on to an Oscar nomination, to a successful theatre career, to the unlikely role of a grandmother in a television series called *Falcon Crest*.

"Many times I've said, 'This, too, will pass,'" she says. "Now, I can say, 'Okay, it's not going to come too close. I will come up and over this and be a better person.' I guess there was always a bit of that in me."

Changing faces of a screen goddess

The changing face of Lana Turner during her 45-year Hollywood reign. Left, with her mother and daughter, Cheryl; above, as she is today and, right, in her pin-up days.

was 19 and he promised her marriage and children and a cottage with roses round the door (the marriage lasted four months). Lana Turner has had a man in her life: "I married seven of them and I'm not proud of it. I always felt that a man would make my life complete, only to find out when I got to know them that I was stronger than any of them. Now, I like the fact that I do not have to depend on another human being to get me through a day, a week or a night."

Now, Miss Turner has found God. "He has always been in my life. He never left me, but I lost Him," she says. In the late 1970s she was very ill. "It had to do with drinking. I never got drunk or had a hangover. I didn't even appear to drink heavily. It was insidious. I was a sipper and there was always a drink there and I was taking small sips each day. I wasn't aware. I was doing it. Finally, I became so ill that this beloved man, sitting right here in this room, said: 'I've made an appointment for you to see a doctor and don't say no.' My brother here," she indicates her hairdresser, "he truly saved my life."

Miss Turner went to the doctor, who asked her if she was willing to give up alcohol to get her health back and a strange thing happened: "A light came straight into my head, a light from God and I said to the doctor, 'You've got a deal.' I stuck out my hand and it was a three-way partnership. God, the doctor and me. I never went through withdrawal I never craved a drink. That came from a supreme power and in this very moment He still guides me."

As she exits, Miss Turner says: "God bless you and keep you safe. Write well and write with heart." Her right hand rests briefly, lightly on her left breast.

It is, I say, a treat to meet her and everyone I know thinks I am very lucky to have the opportunity. She chuckles: "I expect they all said: 'You must tell me what she's really like...'"

What she's really like is a genuine movie queen, the sort of solid gold superstar Hollywood doesn't manufacture any more.

"Lana, the Lady, the Legend, the Truth, was published by New English Library yesterday, price £8.95.

The 'bête noire' who bit back for animal rights



Angela Walder, with her dog Gandhi, at the BUAV offices

Angela Walder, a clear-eyed 37-year-old, would pass unnoticed in a very small crowd. She impresses you with the matter of factness you might expect from a nurse or a teacher; yet the former Home Office Chief Inspector under the Cruelty to Animals Act, Colonel Vine, calls her "an hysteric... a troublemaker, a pain in the neck", and a former president of the Research Defence Society, who candidly admits "She's my bête noire", adds that she's "a right battlexe".

Angela Walder's particular value to the animal rights movement is that she worked in a cancer research laboratory as an animal technician for 15 years before joining the opposition.

Every morning at half past eight above the Costa Brava nightclub in the Charing Cross Road she begins an 11-hour day as scientific advisor to the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection. As World Day for laboratory animals approaches, the offices have been open six and seven days a week. Beside the research papers to be read, the letters and lectures, the collating of new statistics and the publishing of the *Liberator*, there has been the complicated organization of Sunday's march from Clapham to Carshalton involving seven meetings with the police.

BUAV is an angry, active movement that has outgrown the respectable image of the National Anti-Vivisection Society. Young vegetarians and Positive Punks have replaced kindly middle-aged ladies in hats.

Angela Walder's first job was as an animal technician with a local drugs firm. "There was and is a careless attitude to life. A researcher will ask for large numbers of animals to be bred and then get off for a seminar or a holiday. When he comes back the animals are the wrong age for the experiment, so they are all killed."

At 19 she joined the new Institute of Animal Technicians and in 1965 went to the Gray Laboratory to look after the animals bred for cancer research. She had decided that she could do more for the animals inside the system than outside.

the number of animals. Angela was made chief animal technician, and almost immediately became concerned over the treatment of the animals and the value of the experiments.

But she was most concerned over a series of new experiments by lab staff. "On one occasion I found that they were taking live mice and chopping off their heads with a decapitating machine. I asked why the mice weren't anaesthetized and was told that the anaesthetic might get into the bloodstream and invalidate the experiment. Anyone with a nurse's medical knowledge would have known that a volatile anaesthetic doesn't get into the bloodstream."

Her experiences at Gray Laboratory need not be taken as the norm, but after six years of detailed research into British vivisection she concludes that the 4,500,000 experiments a year rarely benefit humans.

"The World Health Organization itself tells us that out of the 30,000 to 40,000 drugs on the market, only 220 are of any real benefit. We already know that smoking and alcohol are bad for us, we do not need any further testing on cosmetics... And as far as cancer research is concerned, Lord Zuckerman stated in the report carried out for the Government that giving cancer to laboratory animals has not and will not help us to understand the disease or to treat human sufferers."

Angela and two of her technicians were encouraged to leave the cancer research laboratory in 1976. Professor Fowler remains the director.

With Kim Stallwood and Faye Funnell, Angela set up Coordinating Animal Welfare and under the same team BUAV took on an aggressive new lease of life. Membership in 2½ years has risen from 2,500 to 16,000. Their first achievement was to close Club Row, a notorious East London animal street market. She has worked closely with Lord Houghton of Sowerby, chairman of the Committee for the Reform of Animal Experimentation, and on March 3 he put a Bill to close all sales of pets in street markets through its final reading in the Lords.

The battle cost Angela Walder eight arrests. She regards Club Row as "one small victory", but her solicitor Mary Rose Barrington remembers the long battle with admiration.

THE TIMES Saturday

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STRATEGY OF THE LONG SPOON

Lord Carrington was right to raise the thorny subject of British-Soviet relations yesterday, when he called on the West to start a new dialogue with the USSR, especially in view of the imminent departure to Moscow of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office. It will be the first bilateral visit by a British visitor since 1977. The years between have been marked by a growing rift, caused not only by Soviet policy in Afghanistan and Poland, but also by a general inability to accept as valid the ideology of the other side.

A senior Soviet political commentator, Alexander Bovin, who is now in London for the discussions of the Anglo-Soviet Round Table held in Chatham House, stated on BBC television on Wednesday that he saw no prospects for constructive dialogue with the United States while President Reagan remains in office. Bovin expressed particular annoyance at Reagan's attack on the USSR as an "empire of evil" but politely avoided repeating his usual *Invostiya* attacks on the evils of the capitalist West.

This Soviet attitude is clearly not helpful. If the armed blocs wait until they approve of each other's system before conducting serious negotiations, the industrialized world could remain indefinitely in its present dangerous state, or come to ashes in a nuclear holocaust.

Britain has a particularly important role to play in this East-West dialogue, being firmly of Western Europe, yet having a "special relationship" with the United States which must remain a cornerstone of our foreign policy. What should our aims be in this vital dialogue?

In the matter of defence there is a sound basis for agreement with Mr Yuri Andropov's dis-

missal of unilateralism as "naive". If the USSR can be persuaded to remove its SS-20 missiles only by the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in Britain and other European countries, then deployed they must be. Lord Carrington pointed out the need for Western Europe to play a bigger defence role. This must be complementary to Nato; it can certainly be no substitute for the Atlantic alliance.

The foreign policy of our two systems can never be reconciled. While the West's understanding of "peaceful coexistence" can be summarized as "live and let live", the Soviet leaders are committed to the definition in their Party programme that peaceful coexistence "further the world socialist revolution and helps mankind to accomplish the transition from capitalism to socialism". The theory of "socialist internationalism" by which the USSR justifies even armed interference in the internal affairs of its own satellites, once known in the West as the Brezhnev doctrine, has smoothly and almost imperceptibly become the Andropov doctrine.

Just as Britain has never accepted as legal the *de facto* incorporation of the Baltic states in the USSR - victims of the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939 - we should not accept the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan or interference in Poland. What can be done about it is another matter. The Kabul regime may arrest a French doctor, but supplying medical aid to the Afghans is clearly a moral duty, whatever Moscow may say. Supplying radio transmitters is also reasonable. The wisdom of encouraging even unofficial deliveries of weapons must first, however, be carefully debated, although no moral scruples

restrained the USSR during the Vietnam war.

It is important that the Soviet leaders are left in no doubt about British determination to persist, through the United Nations Organization and other forums, with denunciations of Soviet interference in other states. They have never hesitated to distort events in Northern Ireland and the Falklands, although there can be no comparison with Soviet actions elsewhere.

During his recent Moscow trip, the French Foreign Minister, Chevasson, took a firm line on matters such as the independent nuclear deterrent, and Britain must do likewise. Our support for human rights and the prisoners of conscience should not falter, nor should our determination to expel Soviet diplomats caught spying, despite the deterioration in relations which can follow.

In trade there is certainly room for progress. But there must be absolutely no question of a return to the silly détente of the 1970s when the USSR could receive imports of strategic value at absurdly low interest rates unobtainable in the Western countries themselves.

The USSR has long been skilled at exploiting the competitive urges of Western businessmen. The ban on all goods of strategic significance must be tightened. Even if means can be found to overcome such sanctions, the cost to the Soviet military budget generally rises. Where trade can grow to the mutual advantage of the peoples of both blocks, why not encourage it to the full? Cultural exchanges on a clearly reciprocal basis might also be allowed to expand again. The West certainly impresses Soviet visitors, and some defect. But there are no defections to the USSR by Western tourists.

THE POLITICS OF GRIEF

To turn away Argentine mourners after making such handsome provision for relatives of the British dead to visit the Falkland Islands has an appearance of harshness. Their grief is presumably no less, their desire to honour the graves with their presence as natural, and their claim on human sympathy as great.

But the matter is not as simple as that. In defeat, the Argentine junta showed a numb indifference towards their captured soldiers on the islands and towards the dead that lay there. They ignored repeated British offers to facilitate the removal of the bodies to their homeland for burial. It fell to the British to give them burial, and that was done with care and soldierly respect. Two hundred - and twenty-two bodies have been gathered, less than half of them identified, and they lie each marked by a plain white cross in a cemetery behind the hill at Darwin.

Such inhumane indifference on the part of the Argentine authorities seems to require a political explanation. Perhaps since they could not hold Las Malvinas with the living, they left their dead as token of their claim. At any rate there is good reason to suspect that elements in Argentina will seek at some stage to exploit the presence of

these fallen soldiers in order to embarrass the British or rally patriotic sentiment. The name of the present attempt to arrange a visit from Argentina does not help to dispel one of that suspicion. The organizers, the Centre of Volunteers for the Falklands, are a patriotic group and their insistence on sailing under the Argentine flag is a deliberate challenge to the attitude adopted by the British.

The British Government is willing to permit relatives of the Argentine dead on the Falklands to visit their graves: it is not willing to allow any visit to be exploited for political ends, or excessively embarrass the Falklanders. It has therefore committed the arrangements to the International Committee of the Red Cross, attaching a number of conditions all of which the ICRC has accepted.

One is that the visit should be organized and supervised by the ICRC. Others are that visitors should be close relatives of the dead, their names supplied in advance and verified by the Red Cross; that the vessel must not be under an Argentine flag or crew; that it should be inspected by the ICRC before departure; that no press or cameramen should be included; that the visitors should be accommodated on the vessel and escorted

to and from the cemetery in the course of a single day.

These are reasonable conditions on which to insist (except that it is a bad principle, and betrays nervousness, to preclude eye-witness reporting of the event). Since the ICRC is unable to conclude arrangements with the Volunteers for the Falklands because they will not agree to the Red Cross requirements of neutrality, the Government is unquestionably right to forbid entry to that particular expedition.

Nevertheless the British position is vulnerable to misrepresentation, especially in Latin America. It will be necessary to make very plain the willingness of the Government to open the cemetery to the relatives of the men it holds, and the reasons for the conditions imposed. It would be advisable to go further. Allowance must be made for the islanders' understandable reluctance to have Argentines back so soon in any capacity whatever. But that should not prevent the Government from taking a more positive position. While still leaving the arrangements in the hands of the ICRC, it could offer some encouragement to the Argentine people by looking out for more suitable sponsors than the present one, whether among the agencies of the Argentine Government or more likely among church organizations.

SOMETHING OFF THE TOP OF THE CAP

The combined efforts of the European Commission and Mr Peter Walker appear to be achieving a satisfactory outcome to this year's farm price negotiations in Luxembourg. It could not be described as a spectacular victory, but it is a decidedly welcome contrast to last year's humiliating defeat for Mr Walker, when he tried in vain to prevent a 10.5 per cent increase in intervention prices. His attempt on that occasion to use the so-called "Luxembourg compromise", which allows EEC member states a veto on the plea of overriding national interest, was to his astonishment rejected by the then united forces of the Commission and the Council of Ministers.

This time round, however, the Commission was determined upon moderation. If there was any doubt about that, it was dispelled by Mr Paul Dalsager, the Agricultural Commissioner, earlier this week when he warned the assembled ministers that spending on the common agricultural policy was racing out of control, and that this year's shortfall might be as much as £1,200m.

Thus, knowing that they had an ally in Mr Walker, the commissioners let it be known that any change in their proposed 4.2 per cent average price

increase would have to have the unanimous consent of all ten ministers. That was clearly not going to be, and it now seems that those countries which had been pressing for 7 per cent and more have had to resign themselves to increases as low as 2.3 per cent for milk and 3 per cent for cereals. Other products which are not in significant surplus will receive slightly more generous treatment.

One result will certainly be to damp down rises in food prices in the shops, although the relationship is not as simple as might be thought. The likelihood that farmers' incomes this year will grow less than their costs may have some effect in curbing production and therefore surpluses, but it will be at best marginal. Moreover, the debate is not yet at an end, since there is now bound to be considerable acrimony over the complex issue of monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs).

MCAs are intended to balance fluctuations between currency values and the more stable Green rates, in which farm prices are calculated. For countries with weak currencies they act as a tax on exports and a subsidy on imports, with the object both of eliminating what is seen as unfair competition and preventing the activities of

speculators who would otherwise be able to buy cheaply in one country and sell profitably into intervention storage in another.

They are inevitably unpopular with farmers in, say, France, who feel they are being deprived of export opportunities offered by the present weakness of the franc. Conversely, their abolition would be strongly opposed by the German lobby which fears a flood of cheap imports.

It is possible to sympathize with both views. British pig farmers have yet to recover from the effects of "negative" MCAs in the 1970s, when sterling was at its weakest, which allowed Danish bacon to gain nearly half the British market. But equally the Germans have a case in arguing that, with products whose prices are centrally fixed in Brussels, they cannot compensate for the strength of the Deutschmark by greater efficiency, as they can in other industries.

The main objection to MCAs, however, is that they directly contradict one of the Community's basic aims, namely a free trade in agricultural products. They are yet another complication in the appallingly cumbersome CAP which, despite this week's welcome news, is as urgently in need of reform as ever.

Miscarriages of justice

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Those of us concerned with miscarriages of justice in the criminal law will be glad to see the Government's proposals that in future the Home Secretary will be prepared to refer more cases back to the Court of Appeal and that the Court of Appeal will be readier to receive them.

What gives less cause for satisfaction, however, is the proposal, summarized in your leading article (April 14) of the Home Secretary calling in experienced lawyers to conduct one-man investigations in particularly complex cases.

The recent history of post-mortem investigations by experienced lawyers is not a happy one because of their deep-seated though understandable reluctance to admit that, from time to time, things can go dreadfully wrong.

For instance, the first inquiry into the Evans/Christie case, conducted by the experienced John Scott-Henderson, QC, used a wealth of false premises and misleading arguments to conclude that justice had not miscarried. The second inquiry, by Mr Justice Bribbin, found that Evans had not murdered his child (for which he was hanged) but perversely for both bodies were found strangled together) that he had murdered his wife.

The report by Sir Henry Fisher on the Conbit case left much to be desired, while just recently we have had Lord Hunter's report on the Meehan case in which, rather than accept the probability of police planting of evidence and despite Meehan's free pardon, he incriminated Meehan as an accessory to the crime in a scenario which owed more to inventiveness than credibility.

By all means let us have experienced lawyers to act as chairmen of these investigations, to lend tone to the proceedings and see they are conducted in a dignified and orderly manner. But if pronouncing on an alleged miscarriage of justice is the aim, let them be joined by two lay assessors: that way we are more likely to establish the truth.

As advocates and referees our Bar and Bench are second to none; but they are not the best people for determining whether the system which they and their brethren operate has erred.

There is nothing very radical in this proposal. After all, when judges sum up, they habitually tell juries that while they (the judges) are the authority on the law, it is the juries, or lay assessors, who must reach a verdict on the facts.

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
3 Upper Dean Terrace,
Edinburgh 4,
April 19.

Public records

From Mr Victor Gray

Sir, The financial thinking behind Mr Camp's (April 15) "entire answer" to Lord Teviot's escapes me. He seems to be merely pushing the problem from the Public Record Office pillar to the local government post. Save the taxpayer at the ratepayer's expense.

These some local record offices already hold registers' records, but very many would find themselves quite unable to cope with the burdens of space and time which would be created by the transfer of local superintendent registers' records.

It may be an "entire answer" for the genealogist, but it does nothing to resolve the real problem behind the Bill: that a projected 100,000 registers will be released on the PRO (or on local record offices, if Mr Camp has his way) without any financial provision for coping with them.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR GRAY,
The Association of County Archivists,
Essex Record Office,
County Hall,
Chelmsford,
Essex,
April 19.

Middle East tensions

From Mr Alan Mackie

Sir, Surely the Palestinians have every reason to blame the Americans for their present predicament and it is cavilling of you to suggest, in your leader of April 12, that they should not.

Of course there are thuggish elements in the Palestinian resistance movement. But their posturing is not after the issue and indeed is irrelevant to them. With extremism there will be victims; by them called Argov, Sarisav, Hamami, the Maslov, children or the 2,300 civilians killed in Lebanon - Messrs Begin and Sharon are, after all, the Israeli equivalent of Abu Nidal.

First and foremost, it is American pusillanimity, exacerbated by moderate Arab states' complacency in allowing her to get away with it, that is the root cause of the current Middle East crisis. Lacking the guts to confront the Jewish lobby, successive American Administrations have fished for an Arab leader to "go it alone".

King Hussein nearly took the bait in 1967 after the June war but was not given sufficiently concrete assurances. President Sadat, the first Arab leader to break ranks was, in his own words, "left naked" after Camp David when Mr Begin denied any undertaking to freeze settlements, and President Carter was impotent to enforce what was a clear and crucial understanding. Little wonder that the King has balked at joining the current peace talks.

About the PLO on vague American promises to pressure Israel, American promises have no credibility.

Probation service 'cheeseparing' denied

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Home Office

Sir, Lord Wells-Pestell and others (April 19), in expressing their concern at the Home Secretary's decision to reduce the salary scale for probation students, commencing with those who would start courses in 1983, refer to the extent of discussion and debate on the matter. I would like to make four particular points.

First, the changes in the salary scale will not apply to existing students, nor do they in any way touch on the pay of probation officers themselves. The new scales will apply to students who are accepted for sponsorship on courses beginning this coming September, so the letter is misleading to suggest that "every trainee will be worse off".

My second point is that the present system of salaries supported by the Home Office for students, who aim to obtain a qualification (the certificate of qualification in social work) so that they could seek appointment in the probation service, was introduced in 1970 at a time when there was difficulty in attracting a sufficient number of applicants. It had the effect of placing the students in a favourable position in comparison with students preparing for similar careers (the annual unit cost of probation students is £7,000, compared with £4,000 for DHSS grants to social work students). The present extent of this favoured treatment is no longer justified with the very encouraging number of suitable applicants who now come forward.

Thirdly, in reviewing the salary scale, the opportunity was taken to give greater relative recognition to the special contribution which mature entrants can make to the work of the probation service and to which Lord Wells-Pestell's letter itself attaches importance. For those aged 34 or over the new scale represents an increase during the first year, and over the full period of

the two-year course the reduction is less than half of one per cent.

My final particular point is that it seems to me that Lord Wells-Pestell's letter betrays a lack of understanding in describing as "cheeseparing" a measure which is expected to save £300,000 in a full year. It may help to put this sum of money into better perspective to note that the cost of introducing one of the most important of these new measures - community service for 16-year-olds - is estimated to be £250,000, hardly "cheeseparing".

The probation service has done well under this Government: between June 1979 and June 1982, the number of probation officers increased by 8 per cent to 3,600 and the number of probation ancillaries (such as community service supervisors) increased by 30 per cent to 1,026. During the financial year 1982-83 there was provision for an increase of 3 per cent in staff and staff support services, and provision for growth continues until March, 1985.

This growth will help the service respond to the increased demand, including growth in numbers of supervisory sentences in accordance with the Government's policy of encouraging the use of non-custodial measures. But at a time when the Government is seeking to restrain public expenditure as a whole no service can be exempt from the search for economies.

The Home Secretary shares the regret that the National Association of Probation Officers should have decided to hold a one-day strike on April 27 in protest at this decision. The more so in view of the importance he attaches to the contribution the service makes to dealing with offenders in the community.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MELLOR,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
April 21.

Nuclear balance

From the Editor of NATO Review

Sir, Professor Sir Martin Ryle (March 30) says that "as late as June, 1979, the NATO Review affirmed the "non-dramatic" character of the SS20, and he later asserts that the same edition of the magazine notes that the deployment of cruise missiles in Europe "would make (arms) control impossible".

On re-reading the edition to which Sir Martin is presumably referring (no 3, June, 1979), I can find no trace of either statement. In fact, the text of a Nuclear Planning Group communiqué (of April 25, 1979) published in the documentation section stated that ministers, discussed, with continuing concern, Soviet modernization of their nuclear force systems which is being undertaken on a scale well in excess of defensive requirements and approved by any Nato developments. In particular,

ministers took note of the extensive improvements the Soviets are making in their long-range theatre forces threatening Nato Europe, especially the SS20 missile, which affords improvements over previous systems in providing greater accuracy and more mobility and in having multiple warheads on each missile.

The opening article in this same issue of NATO Review by Alexander Haig (then, Secrecy) made a similar point and, turning to the effect that any modernization programme by Nato might have on arms control efforts, Haig insisted that such a programme was "a prerequisite for sound arms control measures", something that subsequent developments would seem to confirm.

Yours faithfully,
PETER A. JENNER,
Editor, NATO Review,
Information Directorate,
North Atlantic Treaty Organization,
1110-Brussels, Belgium.

Christians and Jews

From Miss Anna Kasket

Sir, How can we be "grateful" for any deed which is evil, whatever the immediate consequences? While seeking to conciliate both sides in the current "scapegoat", antisemitism arena, may I suggest that Archdeacon Derek Hayward (April 16) is, on the other hand, treading dangerous ground in providing Jews with a less than attractive get-out clause and Christians with better means of absolving themselves of "sending Jesus to the Cross" after all.

We can only agree that it would have been better if there were no sin and no crucifixion, rather than there are bad acts and that humanity is granted the occasion for these to be redeemed. Christians, in turn, must not assign Jews the role of instruments or slaves, in the interest of their own salvation.

Such existed before the crucifixion; the crucifixion itself, as Archdeacon Hayward writes at the beginning of his letter, is the specific and uniquely horrific example able to enforce our sense of sin.

It is, sadly, obvious that the discussion about the crucifixion and antisemitism is in essence a discussion about blame: either the

Jews are to be blamed as the best collection of the worst kind of men or as the correspondent in the latest edition of the TLS tries to suggest, we are not meant to be relieved vicariously (I would add, on the human plane) and "neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers" (Deuteronomy 24:16).

Yours sincerely,
ANNA KASKET,
Lincoln College, Oxford.

Fall in casualties

From Mr Frank West-Oram

Sir, Early indications (report, April 14) of a significant fall in motorist road casualties, following the compulsory seat belt measure, are indeed welcome.

However, for purposes of comparison, I think you should in future issue alongside the motorist figures details of casualty changes to pedestrians, pedal cyclists and motor-cyclists, who get no benefit from seat belts and who make up more than half the total road deaths - 3,315 out of 5,846 in 1981.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK WEST-ORAM,
Vice-Chairman,
The Pedestrians' Association for Road Safety,
1-5 Wandsworth Road, SWE.

CND's presence at peace meetings

From the General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Sir, The issue of CND's limited observer status at the forthcoming World Peace Council Assembly in Prague in June is not quite as simple as you would like to make it (leading article, April 21).

One large piece doesn't fit into the jigsaw which you outline. In May of this year CND will be present as full participants at the END (European Nuclear Disarmament) Convention in West Berlin. Yet that convention has been bitterly attacked by the Soviet Peace Committee, which very much resents END, which CND helped to found and continues to support.

That there are risks of manipulation in going to Prague is clear, but then we have also learned over the last few years that manipulation is not a technique known only to the East.

By a majority CND council decided that, at this time of a new cold war, it was better to try to communicate than to isolate. Is the nuclear arms race really exclusively the responsibility of the Soviets? Yours faithfully,
BRUCE KENT, General Secretary,
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
11 Goodwin Street, N4,
April 21.

Cypriot heritage

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, In your special supplement on Cyprus (April 6) Amy MacDonald writes that "The island was first inhabited in 1200 BC by Phoenicians and Assyrians, followed by Egyptians and Persians." The date is wrong and the facts are wrong.

The first settlements in the island are dated about 7000 BC. It was never inhabited by either Assyrians, Egyptians or Persians. The rulers of those countries took tribute from the Cypriot kingdoms for 50, 24 and 200 years respectively in the eighth, sixth and fifth to fourth centuries BC. There was a Phoenician kingdom at Kition (near Larnaca) from about 850 BC but this was their only settlement and there were nine Greek kingdoms. By the third century BC Kition had been entirely assimilated into the Hellenistic Greek cultural and political world.

Your correspondent's evident intention, or that of her informants, is to suppress all mention of the fact that throughout recorded history the population, language and culture of the island have been in overwhelming proportion Greek. A word she does mention, Heracles, whose date is odd: it has no relevance whatever to the exotaneous peoples she mentions but it is the approximate date of the arrival of the Greeks.

Since then, under successive rulers, the Greek character of the island has been preserved to the present day. The first major change in the racial composition of the island came after 1571 AD when the Turkish conquerors brought in Anatolian settlers whose descendants now amount to a minority of under twenty per cent.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HUNT,
Old Place,
East Wing,
Lindfield,
Sussex,
April 13.

Water Bill changes

From Mr Roland C. Rench

Sir, Before the Water Bill was published I expressed, through your columns, (letters, July 19, 1982) serious doubts, concerning Government proposals for restructuring the membership, etc, of water authorities. Those misgivings have now been reinforced by the insistence of the Government, in the House of Lords, not to concede any amendment whatsoever to clause 7.

In particular, I am astonished that, despite overwhelming pressure from all quarters, an amendment that would have made it mandatory for the chairperson of a Consumers' Consultative Council to be elected by its members (and not left to the discretion of the associated water authority) was not accepted.

There is still time for the Government to relent - and demonstrate that it believes in democratic methods as well as Victorian values.

Yours faithfully,
ROLAND C. RENCH,
8 Minschull Place,
Park Road,
Beckenham,
Kent,
April 17.

Endangered species?

From Lord Cudlipp

Sir, The Daily Express published yesterday (April 19) a coloured section entitled "Our Vanishing Countryside" naming some of the species on the protected list covered by the new Wildlife and Countryside Act.

The danger list included the kingfisher, the otter, the swallowtail, the whooper swan, the osprey, the hoopoe, the golden eagle and the snowy owl, with whose characteristics we are all familiar, but omitted the editors of the Daily Express, the most endangered species of all.

There have been six editors of the Daily Express within six years.

One hopes that Sir Larry Lamb, the new incumbent, will demonstrate another phenomenon of nature, the survival of the fittest.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CUDLIPT,
The Dene,
Aldingbourne,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
April 19.

CHINA

Problems facing the post-Mao leadership may seem to be insuperable barriers to progress but it would be wrong to overlook the Chinese ability to mobilize extraordinary inner resources. David Bonavia reports.

China's history since the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976 has been mainly a search for political stability and for improvements in the living standards of the common people.

At the 12th congress of the Communist Party last year, large numbers of aged revolutionary leaders in Peking were shunted sideways onto special advisory bodies, and younger people were brought on to play more active roles in administration and policy-making.

In the provinces, however, progress towards the reduction of gerontocracy has been slower. The Communist Party, with some 40 million members, is still having difficulty dealing with the estimated 16 million of them who joined during the leftist upheavals of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) and who are no longer considered politically reliable, or who are dishonest or inefficient.

The outstanding elder statesman of the post-Mao era is Mr Deng Xiaoping, who still controls China's destinies despite relinquishing formal tenure of his posts as Deputy Chairman of the party and Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Deng's right-hand man is Mr Zhao Ziyang, the capable and energetic Prime Minister who has contributed much to the progress of economic reform - basically a reversion to cash incentives for workers on farms, in factories and in offices and shops.

This process has entailed a return to family farming in the rural areas, and a large degree of freedom for the peasants to decide what they will grow and to whom they will sell what they do not eat themselves.

After fulfilling the production contracts with local organs, the peasants can sell their produce on the free market both in the countryside and in adjacent rural areas.

Pleased by the success of this

message of raising peasant incomes and foreign exchange earnings from cash crops, the leadership has recommended that redundant enterprises work out suitable versions of the "responsibility systems", as the reforms are called. Laundries and even Peking opera troupes have implemented a system of income-sharing based on earnings.

It remains to be seen whether such methods of economic growth, which some people in China denounce as "capitalist", will succeed across the board, or whether the delays and red tape of bureaucratic socialism will defeat them.

Besides the move towards a weeding-out of the party ranks, which has met strong opposition from entrenched interests in the provinces and the armed forces, the Party is supposed to be in process of separating its ideological, work, and moral exhortations to the nation at large, from its previous role as the linchpin of administration and control at all levels.

Officials who previously held high rank both in the party and in the organs of government are being encouraged to opt for one or other of them. In matters of day-to-day administration, the party is supposed to let the recently formed People's Congresses work through the organs of government, intervening only when absolutely necessary.

Progress towards this ideal will necessarily be slow, given the reluctance of officials to lose any of their power and to retire in a timely manner, so that younger cadres can take more responsibility.

An associated problem is that of the intellectuals - defined as those with degrees, or specialized knowledge - many of whom have not been satisfactorily rehabilitated since the Cultural Revolution and whose abilities are being wasted on low-powered jobs, often in remote areas to which they were exiled under Mao.

The level of tertiary education is still low, and there is a severe shortage of places for school-leavers who want to pursue it. Unless this problem is solved, China will continue to be technologically backward except in a few prestige areas such as nuclear missiles, in which it is anyway greatly outranked by the Soviet Union and the United States.

Equally serious is the problem of unemployment, particularly among young people. Though the authorities gloss this over as "waiting for employment" (only capitalist countries supposedly have "unemployment"), it is creating a generation of sceptical, if not cynical, young people whose ideals and energy are being wasted.

Political ideology has been out of fashion since Mao's death, and the mass of the people are more interested in finding better housing, clothes and consumer goods. Food supplies are adequate if modest, and prone to price rises because of the existence of a free market.

Mao's ideal of continuing "class struggle" under socialism has been rejected by the Deng leadership, which, ironically enough, means a practical reversion to class privilege, both covert and overt.

An official who pulls strings to get his or her offspring into a university will be let off with a reprimand or demotion if the matter is uncovered. A worker or peasant will have no strings to pull.

In practice it is hard to achieve any improvement in one's lifestyle, without "going

through the back door", as the Chinese put it. Personal relations and family alliances are often essential for people to further their careers.

The concern expressed by the leadership at Western cultural influences, coming in the wake of more trade and other contacts with the outside world, seem rather exaggerated, and based on an excessively prudish view of morality.

Chinese young people long to travel abroad, but few will ever have the opportunity or the means. Officials on overseas trips are often berated for spending their time sightseeing and sending home colour television sets.

There is small hope of improvements in standards of living if the present population growth of over 1.1 per cent continues. The city dwellers have on the whole accepted the policy of the one-child family, but the peasants, who make up for some four-fifths of the population, are still keen to have more children, especially boys.

Girl babies are still widely despised, and recently there have been press condemnations of the practice of female infanticide in the rural areas.

All these problems would seem to place insuperable barriers to progress. But the Chinese have shown their ability to mobilize extraordinary inner resources too often in the past to be counted out of the global struggle for prosperity and security.

In public health, China is miles ahead of most other underdeveloped countries, and while there is now greater

emphasis on improving research and medical skills, the raising of hygiene standards, pioneered under Mao, has left its mark. The population problem is to some extent the product of falling infant mortality and longer life expectancy.

Nor is China riven by the communal or religious conflicts which devour the energies of so many countries. Clan feuds persist in the most backward areas, and there is unrest among some of the ethnic minorities - especially the Muslims of Xinjiang - but the gradual progress towards universal literacy is an important heritage of the country's unitary culture and written language.

The Government's credit is good with Western firms, and the leadership has succeeded in almost wiping out the budgetary and foreign trade deficits which resulted from overspending in the late 1970s.

Although China is not a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, its prestige among other Third World countries is high. As the leaders point out, not a single Chinese soldier is stationed on the territory of any other country. The South-East Asian nations, while still wary of their big communist neighbour, regard it as a useful counterweight to the more aggressive and expansionist Vietnam.

Above all, China has gained respect - among those who sympathise with its goals - for its willingness to experiment, and to discard unsuccessful formulae. Its development as a socialist state, China has tested the frontiers of Marxist

theory, and drawn back when its limitations were plain. The country is now at the opposite extreme, testing rightist socialism similar to that of Yugoslavia. If China remains a socialist country into the 21st century there is no doubt that its adaptation of Marxism will also reflect its long and unique cultural development.

ECONOMY Reform is the priority for 1983

Reform has become the keynote of the Chinese economy in 1983.

Record harvests and a surplus on foreign trade last year were a striking endorsement of recent agricultural reforms which gave farmers material incentives to produce more. This has strengthened the hand of the present leadership group, whose economic policies were expressed in the new Constitution and the long-delayed five-year plan (1981-1985) adopted by the National People's Congress last December.

With solid economic and political victories in their pocket, the Dengist group is preparing to launch a rectification movement in the second

half of this year to eliminate vestiges of "leftism" - that is, resistance to the new policies - remaining in the party. This should help to extend economic reforms to industry and commerce, where they have come up against recalcitrant middle-level officials.

The private sector is expanding, especially in urban areas. There are 2.6 million individual enterprises in China employing 3,000,000 people with a gross annual turnover of more than 10,000m yuan (about £3,300m), officials say. State-owned and cooperative enterprises are converting to profit-based accounting.

None of these measures can succeed without thorough changes in the pricing and employment systems, but these are finally beginning to crack.

China is adopting a three-tier mixed economy with fixed prices for certain primary commodities and consumer staples, floating prices for a wide range of manufactured goods including many consumer products, and free prices for farm and rural sideline industry products sold in markets.

This tripartite division parallels the division of the economy into three sectors: compulsory planned, guidance (or non-mandatory) planned, and free market, as described in the report by Mr Hu Yaobang, the Communist Party General Secretary, to the 12th party congress last September.

Equally important changes could finally remove the "iron-ricebowl" system of guaranteed income and employment for urban workers, which has stymied attempts to improve worker productivity. In March the Ministry of Labour and Personnel called for the extension to all areas of the contract employment system, previously applied experimentally in selected enterprises in a few areas. Under this system, the worker and employing organization enter into a contractual relationship, clearly spelling out the duties and rights of both parties.

The scheme allows for flexibility adjusted for productivity in a variety of ways. There is the implicit concept that a worker who fails to satisfy his contractual obligations can be dismissed - a revolutionary concept in a society which until recently accepted, in theory at least, that workers were entitled to their job and pay.

The five-year plan for 1981-1985 outlined by Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, in December, calls for modest short-term economic growth, combined with intensive development of the energy industries and transport and a gradual technological overhaul of China's existing industrial enterprises. The aim is to provide a

foundation for more rapid economic growth in the second half of the decade.

Mr Zhao endorsed the open-door policy of expanding foreign trade and encouraging foreign investment in China. Foreign trade is expected to grow by an average of 8.7 per cent a year over the five-year period. Last year it recorded a surplus of 2,800m yuan, but export growth was flat as China finally succumbed to stagnation in world trade and protectionism in the US and other key markets.

The plan anticipates a 3,000m yuan deficit for 1983, with imports growing 25 per cent. Much of the increase will come from technology and equipment needed for China's ambitious modernization programme.

Occidental Petroleum of the US, announced in March that it had signed an interim agreement with the China National Coal Development Corporation to develop a 15 million tonne-per-year coalmine at Pingshuo in Shanxi province, the location of China's biggest coal reserves. The joint venture will require an investment by Occidental of between £200m and \$300m (about £153m-£200m), which would make Pingshuo by far the biggest foreign investment in China.

About 70 per cent of the output is earmarked for export to Japan, the Philippines and Hongkong. The coal will be moved from Shanxi along newly-upgraded railways to a coal port at Qinhuangdao.

In another important energy project, a nuclear power plant will be built in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone near Hongkong. This will involve contracts for the nuclear power industries of both France and Britain, well-informed sources say, on the basis of future sales of electric power to Hongkong.

Heavy industry grew by a surprising 9.3 per cent last year, far exceeding the 4 per cent range set by planners in late 1981, and this will undoubtedly put further strain on China's already stretched energy supply and transport system.

Light industry grew by only 5.1 per cent, reversing the two-year trend of two figure light industrial growth under the readjustment policies, which had favoured light industry. The policies cut investment costs and heavy industrial growth in order to hold down energy demand and expand the supply of consumer goods.

One factor in the levelling-off of light industrial growth has been the gradual saturation of markets for synthetic textiles and some manufactured goods, especially less-favoured brand names. Gone are the days when it was necessary to queue up to

continued on next page



Nobby Clark

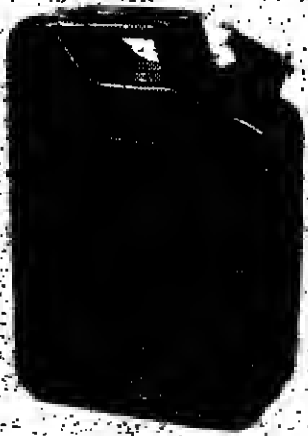
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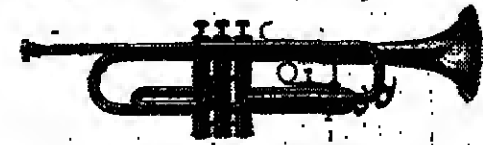
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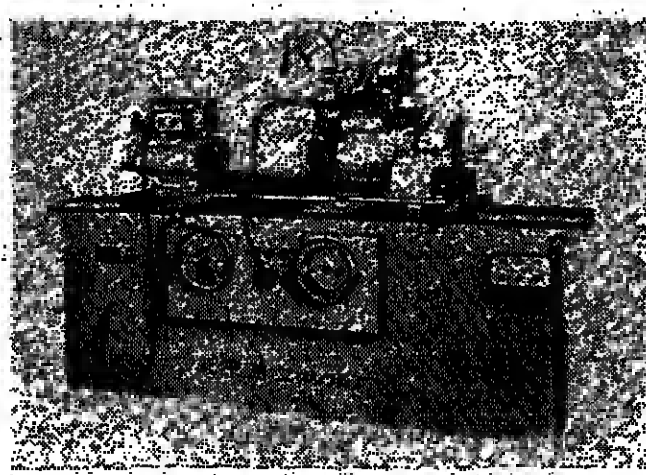
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continued from previous page buy a watch, bicycle or sewing machine. Town dwellers now want colour, not black-and-white, television sets, and Japanese if possible.

The shift to profit-based accounting has made it easier to identify inefficient producers of shoddy goods, which are oozing up in warehouses.

Efficiency-minded bureaucrats are forcing such enterprises to shift to new product lines or close down.

Robert Delfs China Economy Correspondent Far Eastern Economic Review

AGRICULTURE Growing more and reaping rewards

Recent structural changes in Chinese agriculture and the end of the drought after nearly three years in north China have contributed to record harvests, which the Chinese hope will be exceeded again this year.

Total agricultural output rose by nearly 7 per cent in 1982, which is the minimum necessary to achieve the leadership's goal of quadrupling national production by the year 2000.

In most places, work points have been replaced by the system of production contracts which, Chinese economists claim, mobilize the peasants' self-interest by rewarding them not only according to their labour input, but according to the effectiveness and productivity of their work.

At the same time, it is strenuously denied that the new system amounts to redistribution of land, with the peasants becoming owners of the fields they farm. Land, in theory, is still owned by the collective, while the peasants own some tools and technical equipment, and have the right to practice it.

In practice it makes little difference, except that exploitation of poor by rich peasants is ruled out, thus avoiding one of the greatest causes of misery in pre-revolutionary China.

The factors working for greater output are purchases of chemical fertilizer, hard work, a modest degree of mechanization, bank loans, and progress in scientific farming.

Agriculture will generally continue to be small scale until the enhanced earnings of the country as a whole can finance the merging of the land tracts now farmed by families, groups of families and sometimes individuals, thus making mechanization economic and avoiding rural unemployment.

The latest trend is towards families specializing in certain types of work considered inferior to grain production during Mao's lifetime - forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, fruit, vegetables, and cash crops.

The party and government are actively encouraging peasant families to devote themselves to any one or a combination of such occupations.

The wheel of rural policy has come round so far that now there are even families considered to be "specializing in grain production".

Previously, families were expected to spend most of their time and energy making their villages self-sufficient in grain, and ideally selling surpluses to the state.

Now the peasants can eat or market their crops freely after delivering their contracted grain

Though the area sown to grain was slightly reduced, the estimated harvest figure is 344 million tonnes, an increase of nearly 6 per cent over 1981. Cotton totalled 3.37 million tonnes or nearly 14 per cent more than the previous year.

Oil-bearing crops were put at 11.2 million tonnes, an increase of almost 10 per cent. Though better weather helped farmers, Peking claims the record harvest, were due at least partly to the new system of family farming which has motivated the peasants to produce and market more.

Leading authorities compare the system with the agricultural cooperatives of the 1950s, which were swept aside by the late Mao Tse-tung's imposition of the people's communes.

The communes, which centralized all rural work from 1958, and were aimed at achieving uniformity of living standards, were severely modified after they failed to keep the country fed in 1961.

However, some concepts of egalitarianism persisted in the three-tiered administrative system applied to farming from 1962 until 1980, and were expressed in the system of work points.

Work points were designed to reward hard work and pay stronger and more active peasants more than their fellows. In practice, however, they discouraged personal initiative and denied the peasants the right to enrich themselves through their own efforts.

In most places, work points have been replaced by the system of production contracts which, Chinese economists claim, mobilize the peasants' self-interest by rewarding them not only according to their labour input, but according to the effectiveness and productivity of their work.

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Previously, families were expected to spend most of their time and energy making their villages self-sufficient in grain, and ideally selling surpluses to the state.

Now the peasants can eat or market their crops freely after delivering their contracted grain

quotas or other produce to the authorities. The communes themselves have ceased to be centres of political mobilization and control, and are now purely administrative units providing some essential services.

The rural township or xiang has reverted to its former role as the basic organ of government. Nothing could better symbolize the turn-about in farm policy than the appointment of a middle-aged intellectual to act as party secretary of the once-famous Dazhai production brigade in Shanxi Province, the model of Maoist austerity and egalitarianism. Mao and his group despised intellectuals, and compared them unfavourably with untutored peasants as builders of socialism.

Now it is the peasants who have shown the strongest anti-socialist tendencies, and won their point. Chinese theorists, of course, would reject this analysis, and say the peasants were as eager as anyone to implement socialism when the time is ripe.

But the socialist idea of "paying each according to his work" has failed to make Chinese farming efficient, and the slogan nowadays is "paying each according to his output".

The idea of peasant self-enrichment is no longer thought anti-socialist, but is greatly encouraged, so that there are now peasant families earning considerably more than industrial workers and people in administrative jobs, and a few have even bought their own tractors, which they can use on their own land or hire out for gain.

Chinese farming - for which only 15 per cent of the country's land is suitable - now concentrates on value rather than mass output. Forest and aquatic products, handicrafts, meat and eggs are no longer regarded as luxuries whose cultivation should be assigned a low priority.

But the proclaimed goal of improving the protein content of the people's diet will wait on the development of transport and refrigeration to ship beef and lamb from the frontier grasslands to the heavily populated interior.

Port, chicken, beans and fish still supply most of the protein in the Chinese diet. Export industries, however, are benefiting from the better supply of secondary products, while several million tons of grain are imported each year to satisfy the basic requirement of the foodstuffs in the big coastal cities.

David Bonavia

OIL Getting into the offshore field

The coming year will be critical for China's ambitious plans to develop its offshore oil reserves, which many experts believe could rival those of the North Sea or Alaska and make China a significant force in the world oil market by the 1990s.

To the five years since the Chinese Government first announced it was inviting foreign oil companies to help to explore and develop its virtually uncharted continental shelf, progress has been painstakingly thorough - and slow.

Although wells have been drilled around Hainan Island in the south and in the Gulf of Bohai in the north, the start of the major

exploration programme in the South China and Yellow Seas, which alone will tell whether or not China could become an important oil exporting nation, has been postponed again. It is unlikely to begin before the end of this year.

Six August last year the Chinese Government has been evaluating the bids for 43 offshore tracts in the South China Sea and Yellow Sea submitted by the oil companies. Although initial expectations were that the first licences would be awarded by the end of last year, they are now unlikely to be granted much before the middle of the year.

There is evidence that the recent fall in world oil prices is causing most of the oil companies involved to hold out for better terms in the all-important contractual arrangements for profit and production sharing between the industry and the newly created Chinese National Oil Corporation.

The outcome of the negotiations - and the drilling that follows them - will be critical for both sides. For the Chinese, development of their offshore oil is far more than just another manifestation of Deng Xiaoping's "open door" economic policy. It holds out the prospect of secure energy supplies for many years, as well as a vital source of badly needed foreign currency earnings.

Oil companies regard offshore China as one of the last great unexplored oil provinces. The seismic surveys they carried out for the Chinese Government as a condition of being able to bid in last summer's auction identified more than 100 large and potentially oil-bearing structures, many of which could produce substantial quantities of oil, if they are confirmed by drilling.

The 33 companies which bid for licences include all the leading international companies such as BP, Shell and Exxon. China has been a significant producer of oil for more than 30 years, having been helped by the Russians to develop the first of her many offshore fields.

Present production from the offshore fields is running at about 2 million barrels a day, slightly less than Britain's North Sea output, but sufficient to meet China's domestic needs and leave a small surplus for export.

Although no official Chinese forecasts are available, there has been speculation among Western analysts that China's offshore fields have recently peaked, underlining the need for new developments. A recent confidential World Bank report forecast that China could become a net importer of oil by 1990, particularly if domestic consumption continued to grow.

What is not in dispute is that China does not have the experience, equipment or financial resources to tackle the far more demanding task of offshore development on its own. This is reflected both in its decision to open the door to Western oil companies, and in its stipulation that the companies should help to lay the groundwork for a strengthened indigenous industry by employing and training Chinese labour for their offshore operations.

As for the financial commitment, Chang Yangting, vice chairman of the board of directors of the Bank of China, said a few months ago that China would need between \$20,000m and \$40,000m (£13,000m to £26,000m) to develop its oil and coal resources. Most Western estimates are that sums of this order will be needed over the

next 20 years for oil development alone if the offshore area proves anything like as rewarding as has been predicted. Estimates of the likely reserves in China's offshore waters are inevitably speculative, but Dr Jack Birks, a former managing director of BP, puts the likely figure at between 20 billion and 40 billion barrels.

This is in line with many other estimates, and would make offshore China slightly more productive than the North Sea. The drilling already done by three oil company consortia, one Japanese, one French and one American, has been patchy, with several oil shows and a number of "dry holes". These have all been in relatively shallow water, but are not regarded as the best areas on offer.

The waters off the mouth of the Pearl River will attract the greatest industrial interest, and this area was well represented in last summer's auctioned acreage. The total area on offer amounted to some 60,000 square miles, equivalent to the entire United Kingdom sector of the North Sea.

The Chinese have taken advice from other oil producing countries, including Norway, about the form and terms of licence agreements. The model agreement produced last year was complex and onerous but not that exacting by international standards, with profits in the early stages being divided 75 per cent to the Chinese Government and 25 per cent to the oil companies.

Two key conditions for China are that all the initial exploration and development costs are paid for by the companies, with the Chinese state oil company taking over once the costs have been paid out of the oil produced. This is in addition to the stipulations that the companies use Chinese labour and equipment wherever possible.

Jonathan Davis Energy Correspondent

POPULATION Time to end the baby boom

China's latest Constitution, promulgated on December 4, 1982, proclaims unequivocally that the state "promotes family planning so that population growth may fit the plans for economic and social development". It also notes that "both husband and wife have the duty to promote family planning".

China's one of the few countries to have highlighted and promoted birth control so explicitly in a national Constitution. This comes as no surprise in view of the results, just being released, of China's most recent census, which was conducted in June, 1982.

The figures showed a nation of over 1,008 million people on the mainland of China which could conceivably grow to 1,400 million by the end of the century if peasant families continue to prefer to have three children.

Since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 more than 450 million people have been added to China's population and 40 per cent of this gain occurred during the baby boom from 1962 to 1972. The results of this boom should be carefully considered in conjunction with the working of the

new marriage law of 1980, which stipulates the minimum legal age of marriage as 20 years for women and 22 for men. Based on the latest demographic data, up to 13 million marriages annually can be anticipated for each of the remaining years of this decade.

Nearly 65 per cent of the population is under 30, and an enormous number of couples is now coming into the marrying age and could produce a child within the first year of marriage. It is little wonder that the slogans "delay marriage", "delay pregnancy", and "delay for ever having a second child" are seen and heard throughout China today.

There is potential for another enormous baby boom during this decade and well into the 1990s unless a large proportion of young childbearing women can be persuaded, bribed or even coerced into having an only child.

China is expected to increase its population by an additional 15 million in 1983, and in each of the immediate years thereafter. Yet planners suggest that for the next 17 years the annual population increase will have to be kept in the vicinity of 10 to 11 million or lower to achieve their target of a population of 1,200 million by the year 2000.

These aims are considered unrealistic by many statistical demographers and family sociologists. To date some 16 million couples throughout China have pledged to have only one child, and some 100 million couples of child bearing age are reported to be active contraceptive users.

However, Chinese family planning officials - as well as demographers, believe that it would be necessary for at least 50 million young childbearing couples to pledge to have only one child, and for 200 million couples to use contraceptives if the Government is to achieve its goals for the year 2000.

Short-term goals have been proclaimed to reduce the present 1.4 per cent annual growth to about 1.2 per cent by 1985 and to less than one per cent by 1990.

Unfortunately there are now emerging several unexpected consequences of the birth control programmes which have been in operation during the last few years. One is the increase in infanticide, especially female babies.

In November last year the influential and widely read China Youth Daily published an article called "Save the baby girls". In addition to warning parents against such unlawful acts, it noted that "according to statistics a serious imbalance characterised by the ratio of 3.2 between male and female babies that have been born and have survived to the past two years has occurred in some communities".

The newspaper went on to note that "if this phenomenon is not checked immediately, there will be a serious social problem in twenty years time when a large number of young men will be without spouses".

In his 1981-85 five-year plan speech to the National People's Congress last November, Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, warned rural peasants especially to "change radically the feudal attitude of viewing sons as better than daughters - and regarding more sons as a sign of good fortune". He encouraged the protection of "infant girls and their mothers" and called on Chinese society to "resolutely condemn the criminal activities of female infanticide and maltreatment of the mothers".

Before the one child family continued on next page

SILK FROM GUANGDONG, CHINA Main scope of business Our branch is an economic entity integrating agriculture and industry with trade and handles the business of production, buying, domestic sales and exports of cocoons, silk yarn and silk fabrics from GUANGDONG PROVINCE, and import of these commodities.

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CHINA

بكذا من الامل



Continued from previous page... peasants could grudgingly absorb extra daughters...

experiment in research design, survey and evaluation, precluded sound and accurate demographic advice.

Accordingly, the most important of the 1982 census results would perhaps be the discrete abandonment of the ethereal target of under 1,200 million for the year 2000...

guards in the Cultural Revolution. Officially, religion is combated with science in the assumption that it will slowly wither in the face of implacable logic.

An additional factor which does not augur well for the future educational or cultural levels of the rural population...

Each major religion has a governing association which, in the words of Zhao Puchu, President of the Buddhist Association...

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Stewart Fraser Professor of Education La Trobe University, Melbourne, Victoria.

RELIGION The right to worship in an atheist state

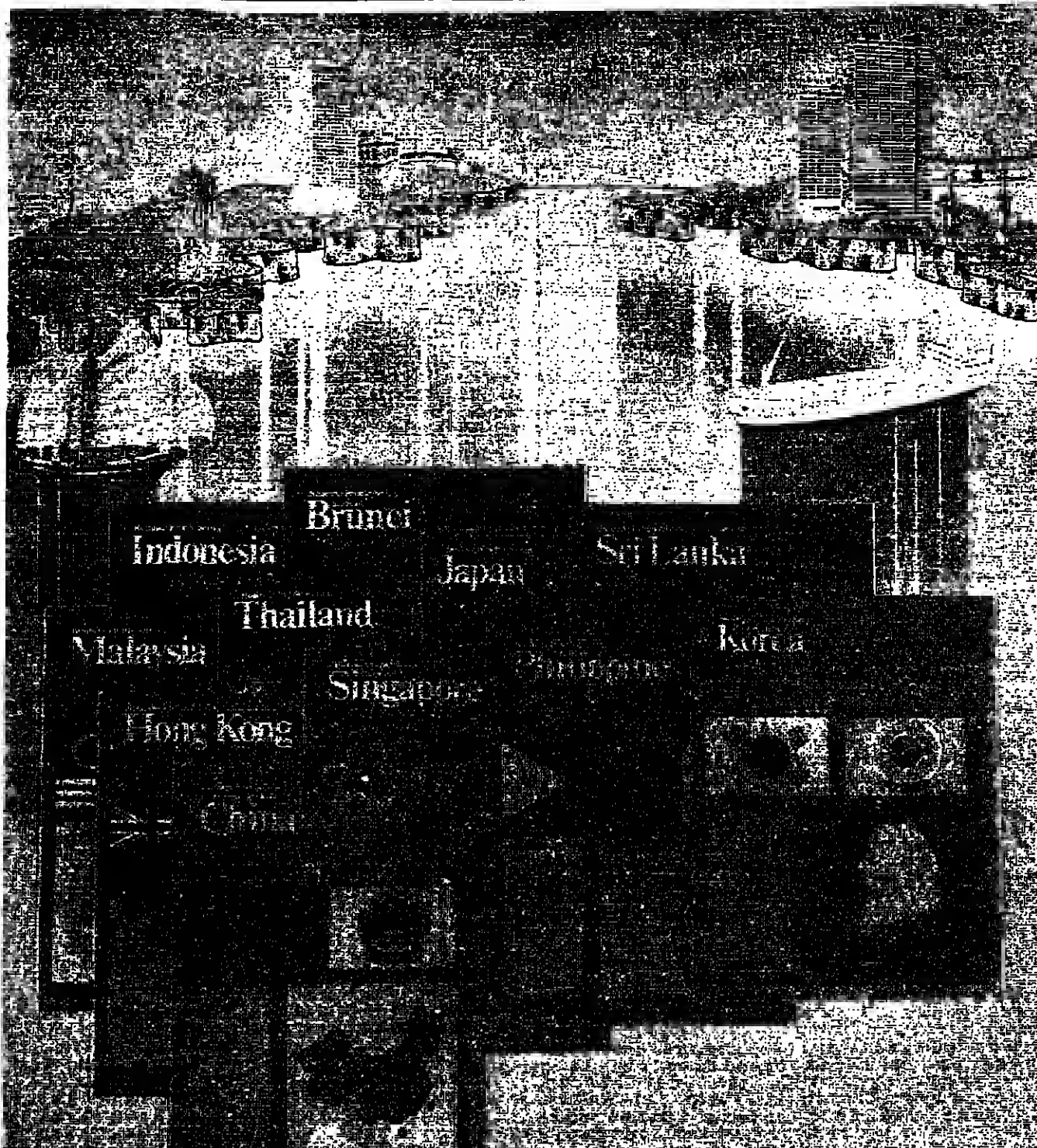
The traditional view that a Chinese was "Confucian in office, Taoist in retirement and Buddhist as death approached"...

Numbers of adherents are difficult to discover since the estimates of the Chinese Religious Affairs Bureau are very low, and those of outside religious bodies often excessively high.

Though the Protestants have suffered less because of their relations with the outside world, they face some internal problems.

Advertisement for Tiger Head and Sea Breeze products, including flashlights and pens, with images of the products and their packaging.

Advertisement for Woodfare from Guangong, featuring images of kitchen tools like sieves and chopping boards, and text describing their quality and availability.



Advertisement for Hongkong Bank, including the text 'Discover' and 'If you're considering business in China...', and the bank's logo.

Advertisement for China 'Double Rhomb' Manicure Sets, featuring images of the manicure sets and text describing their quality and international popularity.

China is the third largest country in the world after the Soviet Union and Canada. The articles below give the flavour of widely differing parts of this huge land area.

SICHUAN

At home in Heaven's Country

Nowhere else are 100 million people so cut off from international life as in the province of Sichuan. It is probably only as the home of pandas and of a spiky civet that it impinges on the consciousness of the non-Chinese world.

Sichuan's history has been turbulent. When all the earth is peaceful, Sichuan is the last to be at peace.

The province is happier in its natural endowments. "Heaven's Country" is its appellation, from the fertility of the soil of the Sichuan Basin.

Most of the province's population (99,700,000 according to the census of July 1982) live in the Sichuan Basin, also known as the Red Basin from the red and purple colouring of its soil.

The Chengdu-Chongqing line is the backbone of the provincial railway system while other lines now link Sichuan to north-west China.

Rice, wheat, rapeseed, sugar, tobacco, peanuts and cotton are the major crops on the plains. Maize and sweet potatoes are cultivated in both lowlands and hilly areas.

Despite industrial and mining development agriculture is still the mainstay of Sichuan's economy. For 20 years the province's agricultural surplus

Pigs and poultry, with buffaloes, are the chief livestock of the plains, with goats being reared in the hills. Sichuan's pig breeders enjoy an international reputation.

More attention is being devoted to the long neglected highlands of west Sichuan, bordering Tibet. Here, cattle raising and arboral crops offer good prospects and the region is expected to make a greater contribution to the province's economy.

Reforestation, both on the western plateaux and on the hills of the Sichuan Basin, is an urgent priority. Indiscriminate felling of trees was a major factor in the disastrous floods on the Chengdu Plain in 1981.

Chengdu is the cultural and political capital of Sichuan. Chongqing, however, is the larger city with six million inhabitants as against less than four million in Chengdu.

The utilization of Sichuan's abundant resources has been the province's most dramatic mineral development in recent years. Mining of coal and iron ore is also significant and Sichuan has the mineral resources to underpin great industrial growth.

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Rice, wheat, rapeseed, sugar, tobacco, peanuts and cotton are the major crops on the plains. Maize and sweet potatoes are cultivated in both lowlands and hilly areas.

Despite industrial and mining development agriculture is still the mainstay of Sichuan's economy. For 20 years the province's agricultural surplus

was expropriated at low prices, with little being given in return. In the Cultural Revolution fierce fighting took place in some Sichuan cities. By 1975 the province was in desperate straits and in that year Deng Xiaoping visited his native province to apologize for the way it had been treated.

Since the beginning of efforts to re-orient Chinese economic policies in 1978, the province has played a distinctive and innovative role. Remote politically and culturally from the central authorities, it has been well placed to take full advantage of changes which allowed individual provinces greater freedom to formulate new economic policies.

Guangdong is a province of geographical and cultural contrasts. Language marks it off from other regions of China and its long association with foreign commerce has made it open to influences different from those that predominate in northern China.

The core of the province is the Pearl River delta, the cultural centre of Cantonese Guangdong and one of the most prosperous regions not merely of Guangdong but of the whole of China.

Offshore lies the island of Hainan, almost as large as Taiwan, and the homeland of several minority peoples. It has a vast, yet unrealized, potential as China's only year-round source of tropical products.

Other regions of the province, mostly mountainous, are extremely poor, with the exception of the small and densely populated Han River delta in the eastern part of the province.

A significant degree of economic autonomy has been granted to the province since 1979. Its most dramatic consequence has been the creation of special economic zones (SEZs) in Shenzhen, close to Hong Kong, Zhuhai, next to Macau, and Shantou.

The province is one of China's great agricultural regions. It is a double-cropping area and its economy is based on rice, especially sugar, peanuts, fish, fruit, vegetables and silkworms, are of great significance. Its industry is over-

shadowed by agriculture, although in terms of total industrial value it ranks fifth among China's provinces.

Guangdong has occupied a strategic place in the history of modern China. It was in the van of Western efforts to break down the cultural and commercial barriers surrounding China from the early 19th century.

The SEZs are not strictly export-processing zones. A variety of different arrangements are possible: direct investment, joint ventures, cooperative enterprises, compensation trade.

The elaboration of rural development policies has brought significant changes in the Chinese countryside, especially in the more modern areas. Guangdong's foreign exchange earnings exceeded \$2,000m (about £1,315m) in 1982.

Peasant incomes have increased dramatically. Foshan prefecture, at the core of the delta, had almost 10,000 households with annual incomes over 10,000 yuan (£3,000) in 1982.

Shunde county, notable for fish, sugar and silk production, had a per capita rural income of 700 yuan (£230), which is almost four times national average (and five times its 1976 figure).

Rural economic success has not been limited to the agricultural sector. Rural enterprises at the commune and brigade levels have taken advantage of relaxed economic policies to establish links with enterprises in Hong Kong and Macau.

Local officials decline to discuss the race riots which have claimed casualties at the remote outpost of Kashgar, in the far West, once a centre of Russian influence.

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tourism and archaeological studies. Despite tension between the local Muslim population and the immigrant Han (ethnic Chinese), communications and living standards are being gradually improved.

Xinjiang includes within its 636,000 square miles the delectable oasis city of Turfan, known for its grapes and melons, and the desolate salt flats of Lake Aidin in the middle of the depression, the lowest point in China.

New hotels are being built to replace the primitive guest houses erected by the Russians, who used to be influential in the region. Air-conditioning will slowly replace the deep cellars where people seek refuge from the scorching dry heat of summer.

Since ancient times, people of many races and religions have striven to make the desert habitable. Water draining off the Flaming Mountains (named for their appearance) is brought by deep man-made conduits to irrigate the vines of Turfan and support man and animals from wells in the desert.

The Gobi extends from western Mongolia into northern Xinjiang, a stony wilderness where nothing grows. But the Flaming Mountains (named for their appearance) is brought by deep man-made conduits to irrigate the vines of Turfan and support man and animals from wells in the desert.

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Russian-style Cyrillic script in the 1950s. Local imams are trained to read the Koran in Arabic, and a few have been able to make the pilgrimage to Mecca. Mosques again collect rents from property they own in the cities, to finance restoration and the training of young imams.

Muslims of Xinjiang are Sunnis, with the exception of the Iranian Tajiks in the south, who are Shi'ites and have given the authorities a lot of trouble, according to sources in Urumchi.

From the second century B.C. onwards, Chinese forces entered and at times dominated Xinjiang, and silk was exported through there to west Asia and Europe by two separate routes. During the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.) there were highly civilized Buddhist kingdoms at the oases, interchanging the influences of China, Persia, India and the Arabs.

Islam appeared in the eighth century A.D. but was eclipsed for a while by the Buddhist-convert Mongols. China vied with Russia for influence in the 19th century, and Xinjiang became a Chinese province in 1884. Russia maintained consuls and economic missions there until the 1950s.

Among the archaeological sites of interest are the caves at Bezeklik near Turfan, part of whose remarkable frescoes were removed by the German scholar Von Le-Coq, some of the finest being destroyed by the Allied bombing of Berlin in the Second World War.

There are also ancient tombs and former garrison cities built of mud bricks of a kind which one can still see skilled workers turning out at a rate of about one every 10 seconds to harden in the sun.

Visitors are kept well away from the Chinese nuclear testing site at Lop Nor, and from the long, sensitive border with the Soviet Union, where there was border fighting in 1969. Distances in Xinjiang are long, but a "Shanghai" saloon car with driver and guide may be hired at a reasonable cost.

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GUANGDONG

Peasants flourish on rich delta land

Guangdong, China's most southerly province, covers 220,000 sq km, only a little less than the United Kingdom. Its population of 59,300,000 (64,700,000 including Hong Kong and Macau) is exceeded only by Sichuan, Shandong and Henan.

The province is one of China's great agricultural regions. It is a double-cropping area and its economy is based on rice, especially sugar, peanuts, fish, fruit, vegetables and silkworms, are of great significance. Its industry is over-

shadowed by agriculture, although in terms of total industrial value it ranks fifth among China's provinces.

Guangdong has occupied a strategic place in the history of modern China. It was in the van of Western efforts to break down the cultural and commercial barriers surrounding China from the early 19th century.

The SEZs are not strictly export-processing zones. A variety of different arrangements are possible: direct investment, joint ventures, cooperative enterprises, compensation trade.

The elaboration of rural development policies has brought significant changes in the Chinese countryside, especially in the more modern areas. Guangdong's foreign exchange earnings exceeded \$2,000m (about £1,315m) in 1982.

Peasant incomes have increased dramatically. Foshan prefecture, at the core of the delta, had almost 10,000 households with annual incomes over 10,000 yuan (£3,000) in 1982.

Shunde county, notable for fish, sugar and silk production, had a per capita rural income of 700 yuan (£230), which is almost four times national average (and five times its 1976 figure).

Rural economic success has not been limited to the agricultural sector. Rural enterprises at the commune and brigade levels have taken advantage of relaxed economic policies to establish links with enterprises in Hong Kong and Macau.

Local officials decline to discuss the race riots which have claimed casualties at the remote outpost of Kashgar, in the far West, once a centre of Russian influence.

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XINJIANG

Ringing the changes in old Turkestan

The huge slab of what used to be called Turkestan is being slowly opened as a centre for

tourism and archaeological studies. Despite tension between the local Muslim population and the immigrant Han (ethnic Chinese), communications and living standards are being gradually improved.

Xinjiang includes within its 636,000 square miles the delectable oasis city of Turfan, known for its grapes and melons, and the desolate salt flats of Lake Aidin in the middle of the depression, the lowest point in China.

New hotels are being built to replace the primitive guest houses erected by the Russians, who used to be influential in the region. Air-conditioning will slowly replace the deep cellars where people seek refuge from the scorching dry heat of summer.

Since ancient times, people of many races and religions have striven to make the desert habitable. Water draining off the Flaming Mountains (named for their appearance) is brought by deep man-made conduits to irrigate the vines of Turfan and support man and animals from wells in the desert.

The Gobi extends from western Mongolia into northern Xinjiang, a stony wilderness where nothing grows. But the Flaming Mountains (named for their appearance) is brought by deep man-made conduits to irrigate the vines of Turfan and support man and animals from wells in the desert.

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NORTH-EAST

Industrial heartland near Soviet border

The three northernmost provinces of China, Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang - the area once called Manchuria but now known simply as the North-east - comprise what is arguably the most economically dynamic region of China.

Liaoning, the southernmost of the three, and the most industrialized and urbanized area in China, produces more than a quarter of the country's steel and iron and is the leading producer of cement and machine tools.

Heilongjiang, the northernmost province, is the most important source of petroleum in China. The Daqing oilfield, with estimated reserves of 2,500 million tonnes, produces 50 million tonnes of oil per year, approximately half of China's total oil production.

With the largest virgin forests in China, Heilongjiang meets almost 30 per cent of national timber needs. It is the country's biggest producer of soybeans, sugar beet and other important cash crops and a leader in China's emerging dairy industry.

For the time being, the Japanese are the dominant foreign presence in the region, however. Representatives of Japanese trading companies and other firms are ubiquitous.

Most foreign firms active in the area are engaged in trade or construction. Japanese firms are building a 300,000-tonne-per-year capacity ethylene plant at the Daqing oilfield and Fluor, a US engineering and construction company, was recently awarded a US\$50m contract for expansion and modernization of the Fushou coal mine.

Robert Delfs

Advertisement for Jardines celebrating 150 years of China trade. Text includes: 'This year, Jardines celebrates 150 years of China trade. Today, we are well known to the Ministries, national and provincial corporations and financial institutions of the People's Republic. And the list of goods and services in which we trade is truly immense. Our offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are staffed by twelve permanent bilingual representatives. With computerised telex links worldwide. From Hong Kong, our China Trading Division sends specialists from engineers to doctors, all over China. If you are ready to trade with China, Jardines is ready to help you.'

Advertisement for Jardines, Matheson & Co., Limited. Text: 'Our 150 years of trading with China translates into your best way to learn the market.'

Advertisement for Jiangsu Corduroy. Text: 'Jiangsu Corduroy is made of fine pure cotton, with exquisite workmanship, in hundreds of varieties and thousands of patterns and colours. Our fabrics can be applied to suits of uses such as garments, hats, footwear, curtains, table linen, toys and so on. Jiangsu corduroy is exported under the "Lobus Lantern Dance" label, as well as under customers' own brand names. Enquiries and orders are welcome. China National Textiles Import & Export Corp. Jiangsu Branch, 50 Zhonghua Road, Nanjing, China. Cable: Chinatex, Nanjing. Telex: 34117 TXTN, CN.'

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

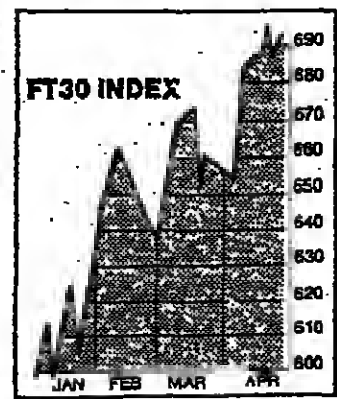
US buyers flock back

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, April 11. Dealings end, April 22. Closing Day, April 25. Settlement Day, May 3.

of stock market prices sharply higher as blue chips established double figure gains.

with big American interests, 17p dearer at 231p. Recovery stocks also benefited.

sliding to 340p, but recovered along with the rest of the market to close unchanged at 355p.



Good two-way trade developed in Commercial Union, Britain's biggest insurance group, with the shares ending the day up at 149p.

US buyers returned to the market yesterday, pushing up the prices of leading stocks in a flurry of activity as ICI, Britain's biggest industrial group, confirmed what the rest of the stock market had known for months - that the group is on the mend.

The shares jumped to a record high of 470p in response to the chairman's optimistic comments. Brokers estimated that up to five million shares changed hands following the speech by Mr John Harvey-Jones.

Earlier this month Scottish brokers Wood Mackenzie upgraded their full year profits by £102m to £462m on the basis of an improved performance from the pharmaceutical division and reduced losses in petrochemicals.

Yesterday Mr Harvey-Jones confirmed that pharmaceuticals had turned in a god performance enabling the group to concentrate on further rationalization among the loss makers. The chairman's words were just the tonic the market needed, carrying far more weight than the Confederation of British Industry, or any Government minister. Jobbers already short

jumped 14.8. At one point it was up 17.3. 4.5 short of the magical 700 barrier that it had been widely predicted the index would hit this week.

US support boosted several of the leaders with Bechem up 12p at 413p and BOC Group

Alberic Fisher's acquisition of Wentworth Import and Export, the fruit and vegetable wholesaler with Chilean interests, has been completed. Yesterday broker's Hichens Harrison completed a vendor placing of 900,000 shares at 43 1/2p to raise £391,000.

Shares of Marinex returned after a brief suspension at 65p, but later slipped to 58p on the news that agreements between Canada Northwest and two Marinex directors, Mr J Kinard and Mr Timothy Fish, for the grant of options and voting rights of their holdings were subject to approval from the Takeover Panel.

As a result the offer to the rest of Marinex shareholders has been shelved. Arlen Electrical encountered an early bout of profit-taking,

group's chances of making the most from any recovery in the US market.

Lloyd's broker Minet Holdings slipped 2p to 136p in the wake of St Paul of Minnesota's decision to pick up a further 3.8 million shares, taking its stake to just under 25 per cent.

Meanwhile, brokers Cazenove bought a further 1.6 million shares in Thomas Tilling on behalf of their clients, BTR, at 189.5p.

Big speculation was good for 3p on Debenhams at 124p in the belief that Mr Gerald Ranson and his Bassishaw consortium would bid for the group if its offer for UDS fell through.

Mr Ranson already owns about 1 million shares which he bought through one of his subsidiaries

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for BRITISH FUNDS and MEDICINES.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN and LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for BANKS AND DISCOUNTS and BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL and A-B.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for C and D.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for E and F.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for G and H.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for I and J.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for K and L.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for M and N.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for O and P.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for Q and R.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for S and T.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for U and V.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for W and X.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for Y and Z.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for AA and AB.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for AC and AD.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for AE and AF.

Table with columns: Market rates, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months. Includes Sterling: Spot and Forward.

Table with columns: Money Market Rates, Clearing Bank Base Rate 10%, Discount Rate 10%, Treasury Bills (10%), Prime Bank Bills (10%), Local Authority Bonds (10%), Secondary Mkt. Govt Rates (10%), Local Authority Market (10%), Overnight (10%), First Class Finance House (10%), Finance House Base Rate (10%).

Table with columns: Other Markets, Australia, Bahrain, Finland, Greece, Hongkong, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA, West Germany, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

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BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY BELLS advertisement with logo and text.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for SHIPPING and MINES.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for OIL and FINANCIAL TRUSTS.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for INSURANCE and INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for PROPERTY and RUBBER.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for TEA and MISCELLANEOUS.

Table with columns: 1982/83 High, 1982/83 Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for MISCELLANEOUS.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 9EZ Telephone 01-537 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 892.0 up 13.8 FT All Shares: 439.00 up 5.29 Bargains: 23.858 Tring Hall USM Index: 172.0 Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 8,543.06 down 21.42 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1,001.48 down 8.89 New York: Dow Jones Average (latest): 1,194.37 up 2.90

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5435 down 60pts Index 83.1 down 0.5 DM 3.7825 FF 11.38 Yen 365 Dollar Index 122.6 down 0.5 DM 2.4540 down 55pts Gold \$437.50 down 50 cents NEW YORK LATEST Gold \$439.50

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Base rates 10 3 month interbank 10 1/2 = 10 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 9 1/8 = 9 1/4 3 month DM 5 1/8 = 4 13/16 3 month FF 12 1/2 = 12 1/2 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 2 to April 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Bastian Int. 14p up 2p Charterhall 47p up 6p Ranger Oil 495p up 55p Reed Exec. 39p up 4p Grootvlei £11 1/2 up £1 1/2 Jessups 56p up 5p Barton Group 37 1/2 down 6 Aurora 8p down 1p Dunlop 52p down 4p Helical Bar 32p down 2p Argyle Trust 39p down 2p H Samuel "A" 107p down 5p

TODAY

Interims: Newmarket Co (1981). Finals: Allebone and Sons, Gaskell Broadbent, Helene of London, Scottish Northern Invest. Style. Economic statistics: Retail price index (March), Tax and price index (March), Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Jan).

Lloyd's to probe goods cover

Insurance cover at Lloyd's on behalf of certain manufacturers and retailers of electrical and other domestic goods is to be subject to a full-scale investigation.

It will look at business done by Multi Guarantee in respect of which Campbell Roberts and Roberts Morris Bray, both insurance brokers, acted as Lloyd's brokers. The investigating committee will comprise a lawyer and the Peat, Marwick, Mitchell partners who were responsible for a previous report on the subject.

ARGENTINE CUTS: Argentina has agreed to reduce its balance of payments deficit to qualify for a \$1,650m (£1,071m) standby loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to a central bank memorandum in Buenos Aires. The maximum will be \$500m against last year's \$4,900m.

DEAL CLEARED: The proposed merger of the automotive electronics interests of Lucas Electrical, part of Lucas Industries and Smiths Industries will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission, the trade department said.

GAS LINK: Imperial Continental Gas has bought an 87 per cent controlling interest in Amcana Oil Corporation, an exploration and production company based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for \$5.1m (£3.3m).

AIR APPEAL: The privately-owned British Midland Airways launched a £100,000 campaign to enlist support for its application to compete with British Airways' shuttle between Heathrow and Belfast. British Midland, which has twice been refused a Civil Aviation Authority Licence for the route, plans a seven-times daily service.

BTR BUYS: Stockbroker Cazenove and Co was back in the market yesterday for Thomas Tilling shares on behalf of BTR. Still offering 189.5p a share - equivalent to the 185p cash offer BTR is making for Tilling plus 4.5p of dividend contained in the current share price - it is believed the brokers picked up just over 1m shares. This takes the BTR stake in Tilling to just over 8 per cent.

Wall St still rising steadily

New York (Reuters) - Stock prices edged higher yesterday, moving close to the crucial 1200 level on the Dow Jones industrial average. The Dow was up just over three points from its record close on Wednesday of 1191.47. Advances led declines seven to four and volume totalled some 20 million shares in the first half hour of trading.

The market continued to be buoyed by Wednesday's news of a 3.1 per cent gain in the first quarter gross national product and General Motors' largest quarterly profit in more than four years. In addition, Chrysler reported a record first quarter profit of \$172.1m or \$1.97 a share.

A few experts believed some investors had programmes for brokers to sell automatically at the 1200 level of the Dow. "The market is interpreting the economic news favourably, especially the gap report," said Mr Robert Stovall, Dean Witter Reynolds' vice-president.

Cope and Bilton bids in danger

By Andrew Cornelius Takeover bids for Cope Allman, the leisure and packaging group, and Percy Bilton, the building company, appeared to be about to collapse yesterday at the first closing date for shareholders to accept terms.

Trust Securities, which launched a £107m bid for Bilton last month, has received acceptance for its takeover terms of nine of its shares and 26p cash for every four Bilton shares from just 0.01 per cent of Bilton's shareholders.

Bilton has contested the bid on the grounds that Mr Peter Jones, chairman of Trust Securities, was convicted of conspiring to defraud the Inland Revenue in January 1980. In addition the Bilton board has reminded shareholders that Trust Securities is a small property developer with 16 employees. It then attacked the Trust's Stockley Park development scheme, near Heathrow, on the grounds of very severe doubts about the value.

Despite the reservations, the Trust is extending its takeover terms for a further week.

The Cope Allman board announced that the Dowable consortium, headed by Mr David Wickins, chairman of British Car Auctions, had only won acceptances from 2.2 per cent of Cope Allman's ordinary shareholders. However, last night Dowable said that it now had effective control of 22.2 per cent of the Cope Allman share capital and had now declared a final closing date for its offer of April 27.

Cope Allman's shares are split between Dowable, which has bought a 16 per cent slice in the market, has a 3.5 per cent stake pledged to it, and 2.2 per cent acceptances. Institutions which hold 50 per cent of the shares, and Mr Robert Maxwell's Hollis & ESA Group which holds 7.5 per cent shares.

Mr Wickins said that the current share price of Cope Allman was sustained at 61p by the hope that Mr Maxwell would outbid Dowable, which is offering 60p per share to value Cope at £23m. However, he said that if Dowable failed to make a bid Cope shares were likely to fall back below 60p.

Harrods managers 'against demerger'

By Our Financial Staff The senior management of Harrods yesterday wrote to House of Fraser shareholders to stress their opposition to the Lorrho plan to demerge Harrods from the rest of the group.

The decision to write the letter, which was signed by 15 directors and divisional managers, was described by the Fraser board as "a spontaneous effort". "There was no pressure," an official said.

The letter said that the top management of Harrods recommended shareholders to vote for the resolution stating that

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

ICI, traditionally the barometer of British industrial health, gave a boost to both the stock market and the Government yesterday when it declared that the economic outlook is more promising than it has been for some time.

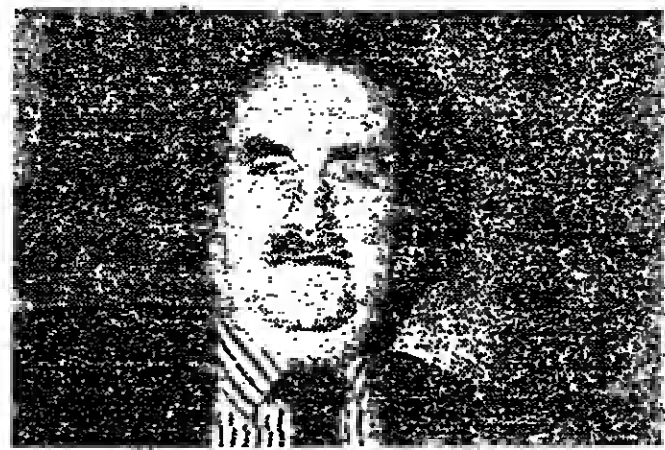
Mr John Harvey-Jones, ICI's chairman, told the company's annual meeting that ICI had "a very good March" and predicted that its first quarter trading figures would show a distinct improvement on anything achieved last year.

Although Mr Harvey-Jones cautioned his audience against going overboard about the signs of recovery, his remarks were enough to send ICI's shares up 34p to a high of 470p. The FT index also recovered after three days of faltering to close up 13.8 at 892.0.

The remarks will undoubtedly be seen as confirmation of the recent pronouncements by the CBI that an economic

Market index jumps 13.8 despite note of caution

ICI shares soar to record 470p on news of improved trading



Harvey-Jones: positive signs of change.

confidence on both sides of the Atlantic.

People should not allow themselves to be misled by these positive signs, and it was clear that many of the key factors affecting ICI's business were still volatile.

"But the outlook is at least more promising than it has

been for some time. It may be a false dawn, but it would be a pretty poor outlook if we couldn't take pleasure at some good news for a change," he said.

There has been strong buying of ICI's shares for several months, and yesterday's remarks by the chairman more

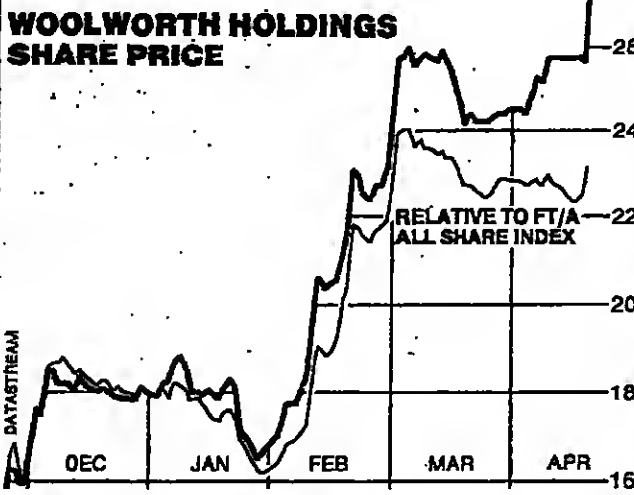
than fulfilled the expectations of the market.

The bullish statement helped to add more than £20m to the company's market capitalization, and means that stockbrokers are revising upwards their estimates of this year's full-year results to between £450m and £500m.

The company also revealed that the chairman, directors and 100 senior managers have all forgone pay increases of 8 per cent which were due to be paid to them in January. Mr Harvey-Jones who earns £150,000 a year, has waived a rise of £240 a week. "We feel we should not get automatic pay rises when the company isn't performing adequately," he said.

ICI made profits of £259m last year, down from £355m in 1981 and the 1979 peak of £613m. Last year's performance was "inadequate", Mr Harvey-Jones said. But although 1982 was an "awful" year for the chemical industry, the company had not been outperformed.

Woolworth Holdings Share Price



Shares in Woolworth Holdings jumped 22p yesterday to a high of 277p on the news that profits of FW Woolworth had jumped 24 per cent to £47.4m - well ahead of stock market expectations.

The market was also impressed by remarks from Mr John Beckett, chairman of Woolworth Holdings, who told shareholders in a statement that

moves in hand to improve the group's performance "should show benefit in the current year." He added that he was optimistic about the group's longer term future.

Woolworth is reviewing its merchandise to cut down the number of lines, and to ensure price competitiveness. Investors' Notebook, page 18

Exploration spending up at Shell

By Our Energy Correspondent

Shell is planning to spend a record £5,700m on capital expenditure and exploration this year, 8 per cent more than last year's £5,275m.

According to the Anglo-Dutch oil company's annual report, published yesterday, a significant proportion will go on the development of new fields in the North Sea. In real terms, however, allowing for inflation and recent movements in exchange rates, the level of capital spending will remain roughly flat, as it did last year.

Sir Peter Baxendell in his chairman's statement, said that present oil market conditions were a disincentive to the early development of synthetic fuels and several conventional oil developments could also prove uneconomic, especially if oil prices continued to weaken.

"Many governments will have to introduce fiscal arrangements appropriate to the new environment to encourage investment by the industry in producing hydrocarbons."

Sir Peter, whose salary rose from £170,049 to £192,553 last year, said the financial strength of the group, with £4,079m in cash and short-term securities, was reassuring as Shell faced up to an uncertain energy world.

Attributable loss of £80m at Dunlop

By Sally White

Dunlop is planning more cutbacks after the pre-tax loss of £7m last year, and loss attributable to share holders of £80m including extraordinary debits of £28m. The workforce in Britain has been reduced from 29,000 to just under 25,000. There is no final dividend.

Sir Campbell Fraser, Dunlop's chairman, refused to give details of this year's cost cutting plans. He was unable to predict when the Malaysian authorities would sanction the sale of part of Dunlop Malaysia Industries to Pegi Malaysia Berhad, which will bring in £55m cash. There were no plans, he said, to sell other parts of the business.

Pegi, which is now the largest shareholder in Dunlop with a 26.1 per cent holding has not

asked for talks. Speculation that Pegi might bid for Dunlop took the share price up to 60p recently although it closed down 4p at 52p yesterday.

The group's main problems remain in its European tyre business because of the pressure on margins caused by the slump in car sales during the recession, and growing imports.

Sir Campbell said: "Following the marked deterioration in the second half of 1982, the results for the year months of 1983 are still below those for the same period of the previous year."

Overseas profits are up as a whole. The difficult areas, apart from Britain, are France and Ireland. Investors' Notebook, page 18

Unions and Co-op to launch bank

By Our Banking Correspondent

A trade union bank with a starting capital of £215m will be set up later this year. Details of the venture were given yesterday by the Co-operative Bank which is setting up the bank jointly with the unions.

Mr Lewis Lee, chief general manager of the Co-op Bank said the new bank would start on a small scale with one office in the City. It will have licensed deposit-taker status and a normal application for a licence is expected to be lodged with the Bank of England in June.

So far 27 unions, including the Transport and General Workers Union and the General and Municipal Workers Union, have agreed to put up £1.25m and the Co-op Bank will supply the other £1.25m of capital.

"Historically, the British trade unions thought that the way to fight for power was by putting people into Westminster", Mr Lee said. "But, the

more modern leaders, like David Basmitt, had decided that because trade unions generate a lot of cash they should have an interface into the economy with this money."

News of the new bank accompanied the Co-op Bank's report and accounts for 1982 showing a significant drop in group profits from £3.63m to £1.69m pre-tax.

Rising bad debt provisions - up from £3,55m to £7,87m - and a heavy investment programme contributed to the decline although the bank itself stemmed the fall in operating profit to £3.9m compared with £5.3m in 1981.

Much of the damage was caused by the First Co-operative Finance House. The Co-op Bank expects the finance house to return to profit this year but last year its losses rose sharply to £2.3m and management has been changed.

Harrods should remain within the Fraser group. Lorrho said that a number of leading institutions had conducted their own investigations among staff at Harrods, and found that more than half of them wanted to be separated from the House of Fraser.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lorrho director, said: "This letter is supposed to be voluntary, but with the chairman of Harrods breathing down their necks what do you expect them to do?" Mr Graham Brown, a director

and general manager of Harrods, said that the staff fully supported the Fraser board. House of Fraser shareholders will be called upon to attend two extraordinary meetings to discuss the demerger issue. The first, on May 9, will be called by the Fraser board to discuss the report it commissioned on demerger and a resolution against a demerger.

The second will take place during June, and shareholders will vote on the Lorrho proposal that there should be a demerger.

Premiums up 5% as ECGD takes tough line

Export insurance cost rises

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

An increasing number and value of claims have forced the Export Credits Guarantee Department to raise premiums for insuring British exports again. Premiums on short-term export insurance will be raised by 5 per cent on July 10. There was a 10 per cent increase last year.

The department is also taking a tougher line with policyholders who make frequent claims, and may introduce special 50 per cent surcharges on export business to countries where there are high political risks and high risks of non-payment.

A record £593m was paid by the department to British companies in the year to the end of March - well up from the previous year's £304m.

Poland presented a particular problem, and was responsible for a big slice of last year's claims. Serious economic problems in Romania and several

African countries, and the impact of the world recession in many other territories, have also been to blame. Latin American claims did not figure significantly, except for Argentina.

The department is introducing special measures for policyholders with the worst claims record. It is introducing a 10 per cent surcharge and reduction in cover from 90 to 75 per cent in the case of insolvency or default by a customer.

The bulk of the department's business is providing short-term export cover, and the range of rate increases planned for July will boost premium income from this source by 10 to 15 per cent. Overall premium income will be increased by 3 to 5 per cent.

Last year premium income rose by 6 per cent to £250m and recoveries totalled £109m.

ARTHUR BELL & SONS plc SCOTCH WHISKY DISTILLERS

This independent Company did not become a public Company until late 1971. Since that time its main product, BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY, has grown to become one of the largest selling brands in the Scotch Whisky Industry. It is the market leader in the United Kingdom with twenty-two per cent share of the market and in the last twelve years there has been a dramatic increase in overseas sales. It is now exported to over one hundred countries and wherever possible it is shipped as cased whisky bottled in Scotland to ensure the high quality of its product. A highly trained team of Executives continuously travels throughout the world promoting the sales of BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY and the Company's other products through the appointed agents in each market. At its Perth Headquarters an efficient administrative unit ensures that the sales team and the network of agents receive the quality of service in keeping with the quality of its products.

City Comment

A French red herring

The idea that the big nations need to cooperate to stabilize currencies is not taking off in a big way. The Japanese have been taking the lead behind the scenes. Mr Haruo, governor of the Bank of Japan, calls for concerted action to intervene in foreign exchange markets when currencies move way out of line with economic and inflation trends.

And he made it clear in Tokyo yesterday that he thought many currencies are out of line and causing strains on trade in the process. Down the road, a Japanese official was talking of a \$200,000m (£129,000m) intervention fund, no more than would be needed to make an impact.

The French, who may not count but have diplomatic style, have duly upstaged Japan by calling for a new Bretton Woods conference in Paris next year. It would set up a new regime, presumably of fixed exchange rates orchestrated by the International Monetary Fund. But their grand gesture could be a red herring.

As the wise Dr Omer Emminger pointed out at the same Tokyo conference, it is quite unrealistic to talk of a fixed rate dollar at the moment. It must all be done gradually, but start now. The world's top seven finance ministers will meet in Washington next week to prepare for the Williamsburg summit. They will discuss the OECD report which clearly favours intervention.

The summit itself will discuss the yet more vital question of trying to coordinate interest rate policies. Both meetings will feature six against one - or five-and-a-half if you allow for Britain's lukewarm approach. But America is the one that matters.

MINING FALL: Zimbabwe's mining output fell for the second successive year in 1982, and the industry is probably in its worst shape for 25 years, according to Mr Roy Lander, president of the Chamber of Mines.

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APPOINTMENTS

Turner & Newall changes top roles

With the post of group managing director lapsing at Turner & Newall, Mr R. D. N. Somerville will deputise for the chairman, Sir Frank Tombs, as chief executive.

In other Turner & Newall changes, Mr D. W. Hills has been appointed chairman of TBA Industrial Products and T-Glass Fibres; Mr D. G. Carruthers, chief executive of Ferodo, has been appointed a divisional chairman and chairman of Ferodo, Storeys Decorative Products and Extrudex Products. Mr Carruthers and Mr Hills have been appointed directors of T & N Materials Research.

Mr H. D. S. Hardie, personnel and external relations director of Turner & Newall, has been appointed chairman of the company's Nigerian subsidiaries.

Mr Philip Massey has been appointed president of Royal Worcester Spode (Canada). Mr William Sherman has been appointed vice president, finance and administration, of Royal Worcester Spode Inc.

Mr Peter Woodward, has been appointed deputy chief executive of Intasun Leisure Group in addition to his role as financial director.

Mr David Marris, a Caribbean director at Barclays Bank International's Caribbean head office in Barbados, has been appointed chairman and an executive director of the Caribbean board from July 16. Mr Bernard Clarke has been appointed an executive director from April 29.

Mr Henry Prevezer has been appointed a non-executive director of Forward Technology Industries.

Mr Hugh Lang has been named a member of the Design Council until December 31, 1985. He is chairman of both P-E International and Redman Heenan International.

Mr Alan Permain has been appointed divisional director of Tocco, and will be responsible for maintenance, smaller works and energy management systems. Mr Eddie Molnar has been appointed divisional director responsible for the electrical division.

After success with TVs and cars, foreign investment is target, says Graham Searjeant

At last, a Japanese export from which Britain can benefit

Japan is now poised to achieve the same sort of dynamic impact exporting its capital and manufacturing expertise as it has at exporting televisions, cars and motorcycles. According to projections by the Japan Economic Research Centre, its real investments abroad could grow from just \$45,000m at the end of 1981 to a huge \$155,000m by 1990, making it second in the world investment league as it is among the world's economies.

Japan was preoccupied with postwar reconstruction and domestic growth until the late 1960s. Although it hardly started investing abroad until 1969, it had already amassed 7 per cent of the world's foreign investments a dozen years later. This is about the same as Germany or Switzerland and only 2 per cent behind the share accumulated by Britain over centuries. The United States accounts for two fifths of the total.

More than half Japan's investments have been made in the past four years. So, despite Britain's policy of investing much of the proceeds of North Sea oil overseas for the future, Japan is likely to sail ahead of us in short time.

The irony of this is that Britain looks like becoming one of the favoured recipients of Japanese investment in the future as it has been in the past few years. This is the result of a striking shift in Japanese policy, according to a new study written by this Far East specialist Felicity Marsh for the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Japan's push abroad can be dated from 1969, when its Ministry of International Trade and Industry started dismantling export controls and introduced instead a series of aids and incentives, including company tax concessions, no tax on Japanese employees working abroad, low cost finance and government support against losses. The switch was an early response to economic success. Japan had just managed to combine 10 per cent growth with a hefty trade surplus and was afraid that the yen would rise too much if nothing were done.

But in the early stages Japan was preoccupied with its position as the leading industrial country most dependent on imported raw materials. Investment was first directed at securing supplies by helping and financing resource developments in Asia, Australia and also Brazil, which co-incidentally had the largest overseas population of ethnic Japanese.

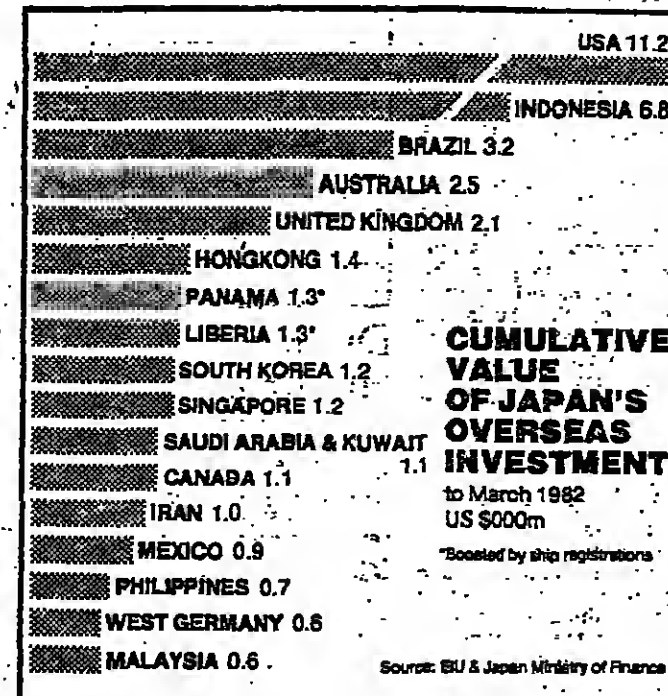
The second phase was to transfer production of goods that needed cheap labour to be competitive at a time when Japanese wages caught up with the traditional advanced industrial countries.

After the oil price shock and the general explosion of commodity prices in the early seventies, MITI went through another major rethink. The old heavy industries like steel, shipbuilding and petro-chemicals, which had voracious appetites for raw materials (as well as Japan's scarce industrial land) would have to be run down. Instead, Japan started to export them to new bases abroad near the sources of the raw materials in order to concentrate on new high added-value, and high technology industries at home.

As it turned out, the big Japanese trading houses, with their unique combination of finance, trading and production, proved ideal for this process. Japanese companies are taking a strong lead over other industrial countries especially the US, at these big, "technology transfer" projects, probably because they are more flexible at joint venture deals with the host countries, better at providing low-cost comprehensive financial packages and undaunted at the prospect of organizing the huge infrastructure investments needed to make such projects work.

Indeed, the project ambitions of the top Japanese groups know no bounds. In 1977, the Mitsubishi Research Institute put together proposals for up to a dozen huge projects ranging from a New Silk Road to a tunnel across the Straits of Gibraltar and the damming of the Bering Strait, packaged as the Global Infrastructure Fund.

Most of this investment went to countries rich in resources or cheap labour. Interests in other advanced countries were largely confined to services, like the banks in London, or to local back-up for manufactured exports. But since the post-1979



slump, MITI's priorities have had to change again as a result of the upsurge in protectionism in general and the increasingly shrill attacks on Japan's exports to the US and EEC countries in particular. The Japanese had three choices: restrain exports, increase imports or invest in local production. It was not a hard choice.

A fifth of Japanese exports are already subject to increasingly tough voluntary restraint agreements. And it is hard for even a willing Japanese government to guarantee that its highly nationalistic consumers will lap up foreign manufactures, however much they may now buy American basic foods.

This has led to a significant switch to invest in other leading industrial countries and a much greater emphasis on building manufacturing plants in its biggest markets. As the EIU report suggests, "the image of Japan as a force for the revitalization of sectors of industry in the West will go some way to sugaring the pill as

Japanese dominance or ownership of much of these industries." There are side benefits of this switch such as greater political security, more intimate connection with electronic technology centres and, in Britain, lower wages than back home. But protectionism is the spur.

The US is taking the lion's share of this new wave of investment. It is projected to take \$44,000m of that \$155,000m 1990 total. But Britain is already clearly the second most likely recipient. We already account for 4.7 per cent of Japan's overseas investments, fifth in the league. We have nearly half the total for Europe and three times that of our nearest rival, West Germany.

This trend is likely to continue. Apart from cheap labour, the familiar reports from Japanese-managed factories in Britain-making anything from zips to television sets show a broadly happy picture for both sides and the Japanese

have clearly formed an attachment for South Wales. In the latest official survey, the main Japanese complaints centred on their children learning English with Welsh accents and on the paucity of Japanese restaurants outside London.

Given this, Britain has over-believing language advantages for the Japanese, who learn English at school but are, on the whole, no better linguists than ourselves.

Britain, on the other hand, has yet to decide how enthusiastically it wishes to form an alliance with Japanese companies as their platform for the European market.

There are clearly doubts. After all, the Government extols the value of our investing abroad as a platform for our own exports and that is true for us. This, more than anything, has so far dogged the crucial proposed Datsun car plant, biggest of 15 to 20 extra investment projects now in the pipeline. British component makers fear Japan will do them out of business by importing, while car business looking at the UK market fear that Japanese-owned production will simply replace their own.

The evidence is inconclusive. But it does suggest that in some industries at least, Japanese capacity abroad replaces that at home rather than local factories. And, with Britain's position as a fairly small segment of the European market, extra imports into Britain from Japan are likely to be outweighed by Anglo-Japanese exports to the continent. Sony, for instance, has won a Queen's award for export. Imports are only a threat if you think in the narrow terms of bilateral trade.

But it is vital that Britain should make its mind up whether or not to back Anglo-Japanese enterprises to the hilt. Italy failed to do imports of British-made Sony television sets.

But the Triumph/Honda incident was a reminder that France and Italy in particular will demand impossibly high local content for cars and many other products if they are to be classed as made in the EEC for tariff purposes. If we are to get the benefit of Japanese investment, Britain will have to lobby hard to protect its own Japanese-aided export markets in Europe.

Japanese Overseas Investment, the new challenge by Felicity Marsh, Economist Intelligence Unit, £45.

Industrial notebook

The paradox of oil policies

Those who are partial to current affairs quizzes might care to try this question. Which leading politician delivered himself a few days ago of the following remarks: "The market place is no textbook model, no abstract set of equations. It is a bustling imperfect real world of conflict and cooperation, of risk and reward, of expectations and uncertainties".

Hardly profound words, perhaps, but ones that would do - at a pinch - as the rationale for a left-wing government's policy of intervention in industry. The fact that they were spoken by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary, a Tory whose devotion to the free market has previously been thought to know few bounds, makes them rather unusual.

But then the political complexities and diplomatic niceties of the international oil market - the "imperfect real world" to which Mr Lawson was referring - has thrown up quite a few paradoxes in recent weeks, all stemming from the deep and uncomfortable ambivalence with which this Government regards North Sea oil.

Ever since the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) crafted, but unkindly, dumped responsibility for the future oil prices in Britain's lap by challenging us to wreck their precarious oil pricing agreement by bringing down the price of North Sea oil, Mr Lawson has been in the thick of it. In rapid order he has found himself having to justify and defend a series of propositions which appear to be out of kilter with his political instincts.

High oil prices may have been the economic scourge of the 1970s, but it would be damaging if they were now to fall as sharply as they once rose. Mr Lawson repeated at an absorbing session this week of the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy.

The Government believes that market forces should, and do, prevail in the oil business as in every other, but it also has a legitimate right to exercise its influence on the

interests of oil price stability by "smoothing out" the imperfections of the market. And although the Government came to power determined to abolish the British National Oil Corporation, the state-owned trading company has a useful role to play and has presented "an object lesson" in promoting stability in recent weeks.

Whatever they might think of the wisdom of the course he has adopted, few observers can fail to be impressed by the delicate way in which the Energy Secretary has picked a path through the appalling complexities, posed by the conflicting demands of the oil companies, Saudi Arabia, other Opec members, the Reagan Administration and (not least) the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is probably not being too cynical to suggest that the Government might have taken a more relaxed view of Opec's challenge if an election was not coming up.

Although what happens next to world oil prices is still not certain, it is already clear that some review of BNO's role is called for. It is abundantly evident that the participation agreements designed to guarantee Britain's oil supplies in times of shortages leave the corporation painfully exposed when the market is awash and prices are falling.

If BNO had not existed, Opec would not have been able to lumber the Government with the threat of being held responsible for an oil price crash; and if it did not exist, it seems unlikely that Mr Lawson, whatever his views about the consequences of a price crash, would have decided to invent it.

Having got the creature, however, it would seem foolish to abolish it now, when it has proved it can play a constructive and apparently effective role in communicating the Government's wishes on the oil price front, wishes that the Government has shown it wants to impart.

Jonathan Davis

IMI

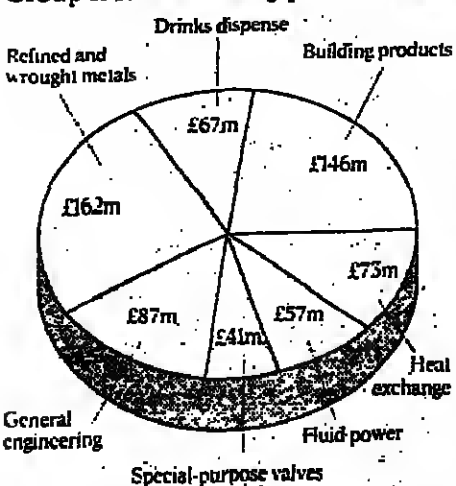
BUILDING PRODUCTS - HEAT EXCHANGE - DRINKS DISPENSE - FLUID POWER SPECIAL PURPOSE VALVES - GENERAL ENGINEERING - REFINED AND WROUGHT METALS

Some upturn in our confidence

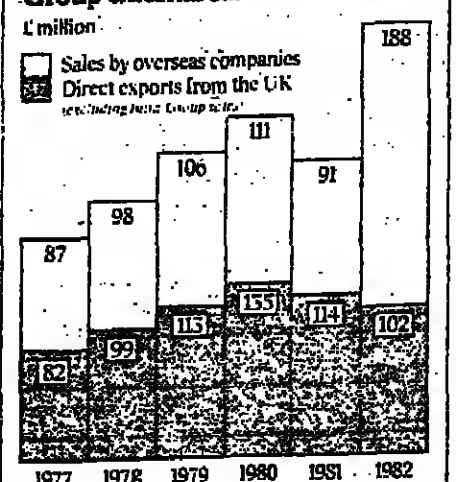
Sir Robert Clark, Chairman, reports on a year of mixed fortunes:

A somewhat depressing first half was followed by more encouragement in the second. In total, trading profits amounted to £33.5 million, an increase of 16 per cent over the 1981 figure, but higher interest charges meant that profit before tax fell by £1.9 million to £21.9 million. 46 per cent of total turnover was sold abroad, 30 per cent being overseas manufactures which generated 44 per cent of trading profit, a figure which underlines both the harshness of the trading climate in the UK and the validity of our policy of increasing our overseas involvement. Our balance sheet remains strong.

Group external sales by product areas



Group external sales overseas



	1982	1981
	£000	£000
Sales to external customers	632,639	532,468
Group trading profit	33,535	28,882
Profit before taxation	21,947	23,808
Earnings applicable to shareholders	10,747	15,303
Total assets	337,563	324,525
Earnings per share (excluding extraordinary items)	4.7p	7.9p
Dividend per share	3.5p	4.5p

Cornelius - World Leader in Drinks Dispense

IMI has now established itself as a world leader in the design, manufacture and sale of dispensing equipment for draught soft drinks, beer, juices, cider, wine and other beverages. The IMI Cornelius Group has a global annual turnover approaching £100 million, with twelve manufacturing sites in the USA, Canada, Brazil, Spain, Germany and the UK.

Sir Robert summarises the steps taken to combat the recession, and the Company's prospects, thus: "We certainly have become fitter to survive in the current world of low activity and hard competition. We have significantly cut many forms of cost; we have reduced our dependence on products most vulnerable in times of recession; we have strengthened our position in business areas of higher growth and added value; and we have increased our overseas involvement. In an expanding economy I am confident of our ability to prosper."

PRELIMINARY RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 29 JANUARY 1983

"Since Woolworth Holdings assumed control of F. W. Woolworth last November, my confidence has increased in the potential that this imaginative acquisition has presented"

John Beckett, Chairman.



Trading Results

The trading profit for F. W. Woolworth and its subsidiaries increased by nearly 24% to £58.4 million. The main part of the increase was attributable to B & Q, our DIY chain.

Profits from the sale of properties were £16.2 million, virtually the same as the previous year.

The resultant profit before tax for F. W. Woolworth for the year was £47.4 million (before extraordinary items of £6.8 million) compared with £38.3 million the previous year.

The pro-forma annualised income statement for Woolworth Holdings shows that the profit before tax and extraordinary items would have been £20.5 million if Woolworth Holdings had owned F. W. Woolworth for a full year.

The First Steps

On assuming control, a thorough review of Woolworth's operations was put in hand. A number of matters which prompted immediate action soon became apparent:

- We have instituted a full-scale review of the merchandise range to eliminate

unnecessary lines and an assessment of our prices to ensure we become competitive.

- We introduced a new organisation structure in the field and reduced the size of our head office.
- We commenced a programme to reduce excessive stocks.
- Two relatively new trading ventures, namely Shoppers World and 21st Century, were unlikely to become profitable. Action is being taken.
- We stopped property disposals until our review of the business is complete.

The Future

For the longer-term future, I am confident the Company can look forward with optimism.

We have to identify what the customer wants and those wants that we aim to satisfy; we have to establish a clear position for Woolworth in the High Street in which it can excel.

I am paying particular attention to management and organisation. The ambiguities must be removed and clear objectives set for each part of the organisation. We have already taken some steps to divide the group into more manageable units. 99

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 19 May. Non-shareholders who would like to receive a copy should write to Nigel Whittaker, Company Secretary, Woolworth Holdings plc, Woolworth House, 242-246 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JL.

WOOLWORTH HOLDINGS plc

IMI means more than metal. The Annual Report has a comprehensive survey of IMI's activities. If you would like a copy please write to the Secretary, IMI plc, P.O. Box 216, Birmingham B6 7BA.

Greater efficiency and reduced costs led to improved margins, resulting in record profits in an eventful and exciting year. Operational changes were made and important new initiatives taken for the future.

'A year of achievement and change' at London Brick

Jeremy Rowe, CBE, Chairman

EXTRACTS FROM THE CIRCULATED STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

For London Brick the year was one of achievement and change. Achievement because we reaped the rewards of steps taken earlier to cut costs and increase efficiency. Change because during 1982 we changed the way in which we operated and took important new initiatives for the future.

The pre-tax profit of £15,328,000 was 37% up and was a record for the Company. It was obtained on only a modest increase in turnover and at a time of continuing recession in most of our markets.

The recovery came from concentrating production on a smaller number of more efficient works. As a result, margins benefited from lower cost and greater efficiency.

At the half year London Brick PLC became the parent company for the Group and three new operating companies were formed - London Brick Engineering Limited, London Brick Property Limited and London Brick Products Limited. Within the old parent company we had two departments originally formed to service our brick production which had grown to important activities in their own right. To make the best use of assets it seemed sensible to make them into profit centres. As the same time the brickmaking activity had to be allowed to organise itself so that its management could concentrate solely on the efficient production, marketing and distribution of their products.

The change in corporate structure does not imply that we are seeking to become an industrial conglomerate and two new initiatives taken during the year related to widening our interests in the brick industry.

The first of these was our decision to invest in Brick and Pipe Industries of Australia, a company we know well and whose interests are largely similar to our own.

Secondly, we negotiated an agreed merger with Istock Johnsons PLC, the only major independent brickmaker in the oon-leton field. The merger proposal has lapsed because, following a counter bid from Redland PLC, the two offers were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. We shall not know the outcome until later this year.

We have once more benefited from the loyalty and good sense of our management and staff. Might I take this opportunity of thanking them most sincerely for their contribution to what has proved a successful year.

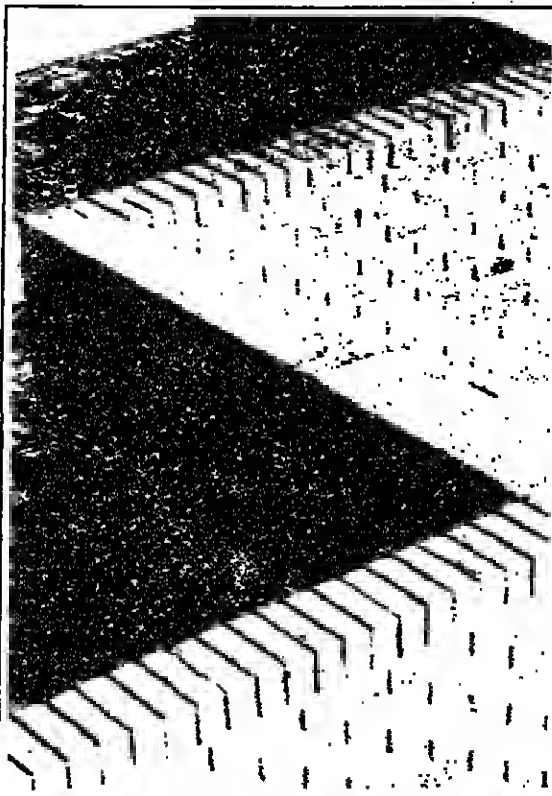
Jeremy Rowe CBE

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS.

London Brick Products

Under the new structure the manufacturing and marketing of brick, and other clay products passed to London Brick Products Limited, the largest of the new subsidiaries.

An increase in housing starts showed through in both the private and public sectors but the growth



in private commercial building was compensated for by a further reduction in industrial building.

Stocks are now at a more reasonable level to match both current deliveries and the expectation of a higher level of demand in 1983.

Three new bricks were added to the Oxford Clay fletton range and additional products have been added to the Clockhouse range which provides bricks of a traditional, handmade appearance at a competitive price.

London Brick Landfill

During 1982 Landfill consolidated its position at the forefront of waste management services and land reclamation. Further progress was made in long-term negotiations with Local Authorities and other organisations which could provide considerable scope for expansion in years to come.

London Brick Property

London Brick Property Limited was formed to own and manage all London Brick lands, apart from those permanently occupied by other subsidiaries. It is charged with achieving maximum

potential from this resource by overseeing its use from initial agriculture through excavation and restoration to its permanent after-use for agriculture or other purposes.

The company's subsidiary, London Brick Farms achieved a satisfactory year continuing to gain benefit from advances in agricultural technology and despite difficult weather had a sound and encouraging start to 1983.

London Brick Engineering

The skills and resources of London Brick's engineering section were made available to external customers following the formation of London Brick Engineering.

Since its involvement with the design and construction of a brick factory for the Middle East, it has actively sought similar contracts and is negotiating for a contract to design and build a £5.5 million brick factory for Swaziland.

Its unique skills were also employed to provide a wide variety of services to London Brick Products.

Banbury Alton

Banbury Alton made progress. The programme of changes which had been planned was implemented and losses were reduced.

The largest subsidiary of Banbury Alton has continued to suffer from losses in its Home Improvement Division. It has been decided to accept an offer for this company which will relieve us of a business which has been a burden to the Group for a number of years.

Croydex

Despite depressed market conditions both at home and abroad, the company continued to make steady progress and had a satisfactory year.

London Brick Australia

During 1982 we acquired a 19.99% holding in Brick and Pipe Industries Limited, the leading brickmakers in Victoria and South Australia. They are a well-managed and efficient company and one with which London Brick is proud to be associated.

Study backs Treasury Select Committee

By Frances Williams
Economics Correspondent

The Treasury Select Committee must be judged a success, even though there is little sign that the Treasury has significantly modified its actions as a result of the committee's recommendations, a study concludes today.

The study, by Mr John Hills, formerly on the committee's staff and now with the Institute for Fiscal Studies, says that of the 19 reports produced by the committee in its three years' existence about half received no written reply, notably those on macro-economic policy.

None of the committee's reports has been debated in the Commons, though Mr Hills points out that only five reports from all the select committees - 3 per cent of the total - have been debated since the new committee system was set up in 1979.

But Mr Hills, writing in the institute's journal, *Fiscal Studies*, says this does not mean the Treasury Select Committee has been ineffective. Its role as a publishing house of evidence extracted both from inside and outside Government is alone enough to justify its existence.

In addition the committee is able to put across important issues on political agenda.

Turn Venice's seaweed into methane, says ENI

From John Earle, Rome

The seaweed which clogs up areas of the Venice lagoon, killing fish, could be recycled in a biogas process and give the city enough methane for domestic cooking and heating needs, according to Signor Gabriele Petazzoni of the state-owned ENI group.

He said: "already, from the end of 1984, we will be in a position to transform 10,000 cubic metres of biogas a day into methane."

Signor Petazzoni, an executive of ENI's subsidiary Agip Nucleare-Grada, said this was based on a £300 (£135,000) study, financed partly by the European Community, which had been underway since 1981.

A pilot processing project has begun and the possibilities are also being studied of transforming seaweed into fertilizer and animal feed.

"It still needs a great deal of research, however," Signor Petazzoni added.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices including columns for company names, current prices, and percentage changes.

Base Lending Rates

Table listing base lending rates for various banks such as ABN Bank, Barclays, BCCI, etc.

Table of salient figures for the year ended 31st December 1982 and 1981, including turnover, trading profit, and net profit before tax.

Text providing details on London Brick Landfill, London Brick Property, and other subsidiaries.

Form for requesting a copy of the 1982 Annual Report, including fields for name, address, and postcode.

Advertisement for TOMATIN DISTILLERS PLC, featuring an issue of 3,000,000 7 per cent cumulative convertible preference shares.

Our five-year progress reflects the growing importance of agriculture

Points made by the Chairman, Michael H Caine

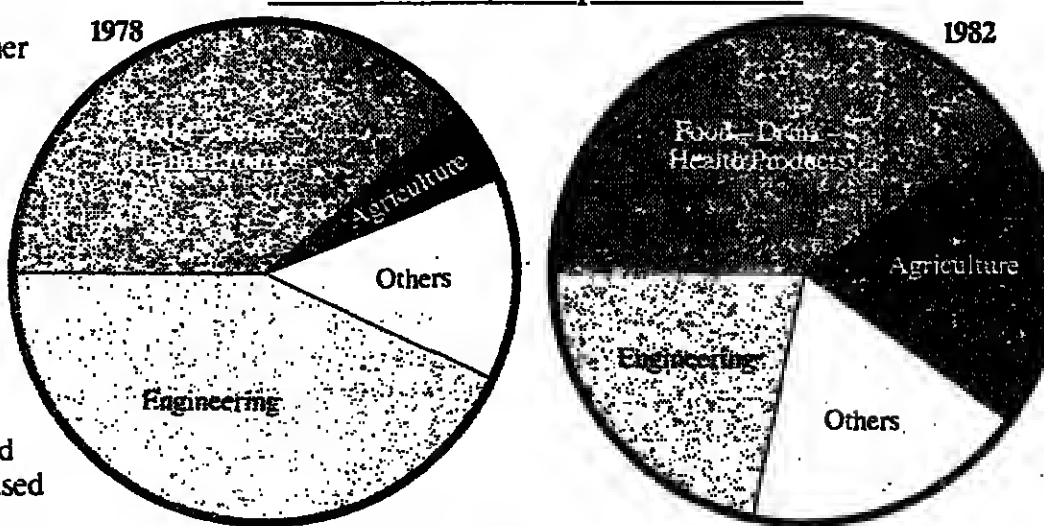
Booker McConnell's pre-tax profit in 1982 was 11% higher than in 1981. Engineering achieved a marked return to profitability and there was welcome growth in profits from Agriculture. A weak performance in the cash and carry business was the main reason for the poor profit in Food Distribution.

Divisional Performance

In the Engineering Division, Plenty achieved a major profit increase. SPP's profit was higher despite depressed market conditions. Fletcher Sutcliffe Wild benefited from increased National Coal Board expenditure; its sale to Dobson Park Industries was announced in March 1983.

The three consumer-oriented divisions suffered from the effects of the recession on demand. In Health Products and Spirits and Liqueurs market shares were maintained by a high level of marketing expenditure. Budget improved but the setback in food wholesaling was serious; 1983 will see aggressive marketing, improved productivity, reduced stocks and better use of management information.

Source of attributable profit before tax



In Agriculture, the 45% interest in Ibec had a healthy increase in profit. Arbor Acres successfully withstood the effects of the US recession on the chicken broiler breeding industry. The shareholding in Ibec was increased to 80% in April 1983.

In response to declining cargoes to Guyana, Booker Line's four owned ships were laid up pending sale. Using smaller, chartered ships, its westbound service continues profitably. The slight profit increase in Authors' was mainly due to Agatha Christie's continuing popularity.

Prospects for 1983

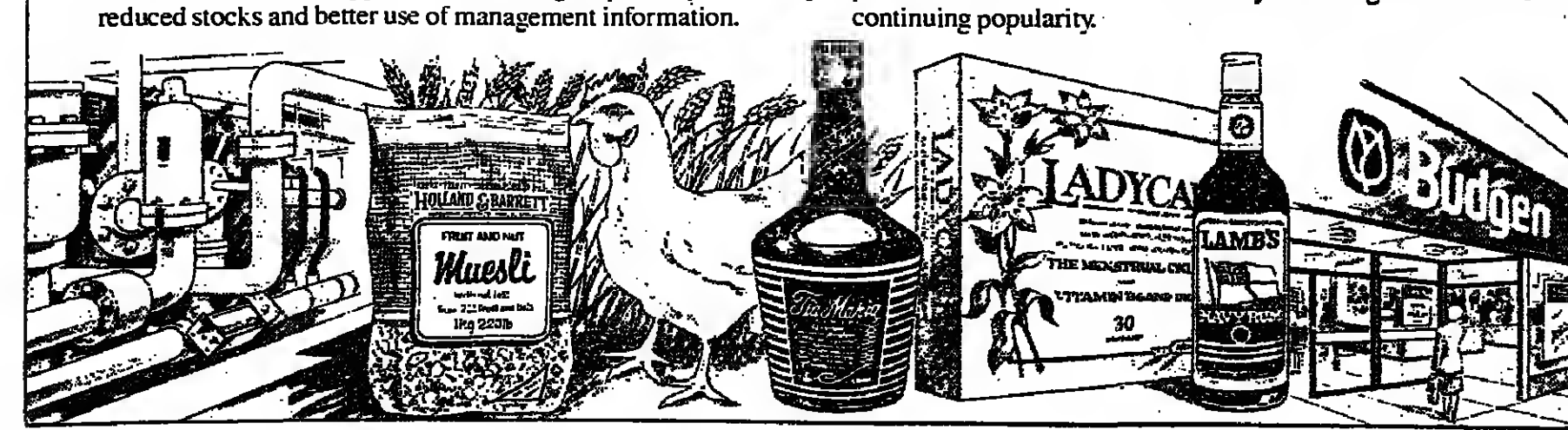
In Engineering profit in 1983, without Fletcher Sutcliffe Wild, may be lower. In Food Distribution profit will be higher but profitability in the cash and carry business may not be back to an acceptable rate until 1984.

Table comparing 1982 and 1981 performance metrics: Turnover (£m), Attributable profit before tax (£m), Earnings per share (pence), and Dividends per share (pence).

Health Products should return to the 1981 level but in Spirits and Liqueurs the strength of Tia Maria may not entirely make up for the weakness of the UK dark rum market. Agriculture's contribution will be larger due to the increased shareholding, although a significant increase in Ibec's profit is not expected. The recovery in Shipping should be maintained.

In total, a further improvement in profit is expected in 1983.

Advertisement for Booker McConnell PLC, including contact information and a request for a copy of the report and accounts.



هكزان الأول

Israeli pull-out demand by Begin ministers

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The rapidly mounting toll of Israeli deaths and injuries in Lebanon has prompted a minority inside the coalition Cabinet to try to press the Begin Government to stage a unilateral withdrawal to the new front line extending approximately 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Israel's border.

Any such move would effectively partition Lebanon into zones of Israeli and Syrian influence, and leave Israeli troops and their Christian militia allies in control of the security zone which Israel has been demanding since negotiations on troop withdrawal opened last December.

It is reliably understood that the Israeli defence establishment has already drawn up detailed contingency plans for such a limited pull-back.

The campaign in the Cabinet, which is led by Mr Mordechai Ben-Porat, Minister without Portfolio, intensified yesterday after the killing of two more young Israeli officers in a clash with Palestinian guerrillas who attempted to infiltrate from Syrian held territory near the Beirut-Damascus highway on Wednesday. All four guerrillas were killed.

Last night the military command disclosed that another Israeli soldier had been killed in a guerrilla ambush near the devastated Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyah.

It was the first time this year that the Israeli Army had lost three men in Lebanon in a 24-hour period.

Mr Ben-Porat, who claims to have already secured the support of four other ministers, including Mr Aahron Uzan, Minister of Labour, argued that the attack underscored the need for Israel to consider only its own security needs in Lebanon. He added that a unilateral pull-back to the 50-kilometre line was more urgent than ever.

The minister will attempt to persuade the Cabinet to debate his controversial proposal when it meets again next Sunday. He is suggesting an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the Shouf mountains - the scene of regular skirmishes between Christian and Druze militia - to a line which would be marked by the Al Awali river.

Before his remarks were published, Israeli military experts reported independently that such a plan was already under consideration for use if the tripartite negotiations failed to reach a satisfactory agreement on Israeli security requirements.

In outlining his scheme, Mr Ben-Porat was critical of the role being played by the Reagan administration, which he accused of being prepared to abandon Israel's security interests in order to further America's position in the Middle East.

It is known that a number of senior ministers are sympathetic to the idea of a partial pull-back, although it would require an Israeli military presence inside Southern Lebanon for an indefinite period.

The Government is not unhappy to see the subject being raised at present, as it is deemed likely to pressure the Lebanese to accept more of Israel's security demands.

Before news of the Israeli soldiers has increased calls for a unilateral pull-back to the proposed security zone from Opposition spokesmen in Israel.

Mr Amnon Rubenstein, leader of the left-wing Shinui party, yesterday added his voice to the campaign, and Mr Gad Ya'acobi, a Labour member of the Knesset, called on his party to consider adopting the idea as Opposition policy.

Mr Yopssi Sarid, a leading Labour deputy, claimed that Israel was now paying "daily in blood" for no possible security or political gains in Lebanon.

Before news of the latest killings had reached Israel, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Labour Prime Minister, said that he was against a complete Israeli pull-out but not against the idea of a partial retreat.

Mr Rabin told a conference of kibbutz members: "If it appears that the talks are bogged down hopelessly, then we should fall back on the Shouf mountains to a line 45 kilometres from our northern settlements, and tell the Lebanese to bust their own heads on the problem."

In diplomatic circles, there are fears that any such Israeli move would increase the potential for renewed conflict with Syria. Signs have been multiplying ominously in recent weeks that military preparations are under way in Syria, but the Israeli Government claims it is not yet clear whether they are offensive or defensive in nature.



Heavy cranes searching the rubble of the American Embassy in Beirut three days after the blast. They uncovered nine more bodies, bringing the total death toll to 47. (Witness freed, page 6)

Thatcher keeps party in doubt over poll date

Continued from page 1

Yesterday, still have no notion of whether her preference is for a June or an October election.

Sir Geoffrey Howe was said yesterday to be curious to know the source of confident reports that he himself favours June. It is not denied, however, that he does.

The Chancellor impressed those who have been in his company recently with his genuine confidence that the domestic economy is mending. The retail price figures for March to be published today, are expected again to show an annual inflation rate of less than 5 per cent.

Labour campaign, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 4

BL attempts to break strike

Continued from page 1

management would be reactivated. It was considered likely, however, that further talks aimed at averting that prospect could take place over the weekend.

The unions have told the management that they will want to speak to the company once the result of the mass meeting is known. Local officials of the TGWU and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers will urge the strikers not to bow to pressure from the company.

As part of their strategy to increase pressure on the strikers BL sent out letters to all those involved urging them to vote today for a return to work.

It became apparent last night that the two sides were close to reaching agreement at one stage during the 16 hours of talks, but the gulf widened as the BL executives refused to concede union requests that the three minutes washing time at the end of each morning and afternoon shift should be either retained or bought out.

The company offered to extend the deadline for ending the washing time from May 16 to May 30 and repeated its proposal to extend a company-wide bonus calculating system to the Cowley assembly plant which would have raised the ceiling for bonus earnings from £18.75 a week to £30.

Motorists have started to cancel orders for the Maestro because the dealers have run out of stocks or cannot supply their choice of model and colour (Clifford Webb writes).

At the same time there is mounting criticism, by dealers of the BL management's timing for such an obviously controversial issue as the abolition of "washing up" time at Cowley.

However, the biggest worry is the effect of the lost production on Austin Rover sales in the boom month of August which regularly accounts of a one-fifth of all cars sold annually. If the strike ends quickly BL will be hard pressed to meet existing demand, let alone begin stockpiling.

About 22,000 Maestros were produced before the strike. Of those it is estimated that about 8,000 remain unsold. On paper that is sufficient for about one month's cover. In practice as soon as showroom selections are reduced, sales are lost.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

A miracle recovery for Finchley mother of two

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the 57-year-old Finchley mother of two who was taken ill with election fever at Prime Minister's question time last Tuesday, yesterday appeared to stage a miracle recovery.

It was understood that Mrs Thatcher owed her complete return to normal to the dedicated work of a team of top British brain surgeons, Saatchi and Saatchi.

She was in such relaxed form that she was able to deny that she had ever been unwell at all. This amazing denial came after Mr Thomas Cox, the Labour backbencher, putting the first question of the day to her, observed: "The whole House will now hope that the Right Hon lady has made a complete recovery from the hysterical outburst we saw in the House on Tuesday" (Unidentified Labour backbencher cry: "Not too complete!").

Mr Cox was referring to Mrs Thatcher's seizure on Tuesday when she began addressing Mr Denis Healey as if he were Mr Denis Thatcher. Mr Healey accused her of wanting to "cut and run" by calling an election in June. In a terrifying outburst, she accused him of being, among other things, "frit".

Those of us from the Home Counties ethnic community had no idea what she was talking about, and assumed her to be delicious. But we have since learned that "frit" is a word from her native provincial *Patois* and means "frightened" or "wary" of subjecting oneself or one's party to an immediate plebiscite on the basis of mass adult suffrage.

Anxious to raise more than one subject while he had her attention, Mr Cox went on to accuse her, *inter alia*, of "smearing the leaders of CND", turning Britain into "Reagan's European fortress" and not being sufficiently bothered about "weapons of mass destruction".

This gave Mrs Thatcher an opportunity to avoid replying to his inquiry about her recovery, and to concentrate on the more routine topic of mass destruction. "If one wishes to retain freedom to discuss in this country, including that for CND, one must have the will, the means and the courage to defend ourselves, and on the Conservative side we have," she said, sitting down to Tory cheers.

"And have you recovered", called Mr Cox. She remained seated, making as if she had no idea to what he had possibly be referring.

Suddenly, Mr David Crouch, the Conservative backbencher, a tall, silver-haired, intrepidly respectable man from Canterbury who has never had a day's hysteria in his life, suddenly has a seizure. "Has the Prime Minister noticed this week that a constituent of mine, Mr Mike Gratton, won the London marathon?" Mr Crouch started raving, "and that in doing so he demonstrated that there is nothing wrong in cutting and running provided one wins?"

"I venture to suggest that she should herself consider having a go in the near future, and she would walk it."

Mrs Thatcher congratulated Mr Crouch's constituent. "As to cutting and running, we intend to cut the number of seats held by the Labour Party and continue to run the country," she added.

Then Mr David Steel, for the Liberals, accused her, which was no more than the truth, of suffering from "electionitis". Being the leader of the caring party he was clearly anxious that above all she should be encouraged to talk openly about it. "I do not expect answer questions put to me," she replied, thus displaying the well-known post-operative symptoms.

Finally, the verdict in the case of the London woman, Miss Ruth Hall of Women Against Rape who allegedly interfered with a right-wing Tory MP, Mr Harvey Proctor. (See this space, yesterday) in a short debate. Mr Proctor said Miss Hall should appear before the Committee of Privileges.

He was mocked and denounced in a powerful speech by Mr John Tilley, a Labour backbencher and a dedicated fellow traveller of the Women's Movement. He managed to work in a reference to "my black constituents", which had nothing to do with the case. So would you if, like Mr Tilley, your constituency included Britain. Furthermore, he was about to face reelection by his local Labour Party in competition with Mr Benn's old associate, Mr Stuart Holland. Mr Proctor's move was defeated. We are none of us safe.

Today's events

Royal engagements
Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, visit Japan depart from Heathrow airport 1.10.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, attends the annual dinner of the Medical Women's Federation, Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York, 7.40.

Prince Michael of Kent attends Standard Telephone and Cables

Annual General Meeting, Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London, 12.10.

Exhibitions in progress
Paintings and drawings by Australian artist, Mostyn Bramley Moore, MacRobert Arts Centre Gallery, Stirling University, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5.

Experimental photography, Museum and Art Gallery, 78 George Street, Sandwick, Kent, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (until April 30).

Jugs, Jars and Jollyboys -

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,110

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

ACROSS

- Novel bridge partnership (5,3,5).
- City requires replacement for old man on board (9).
- Vote against annual treat for workers (5).
- Anguish of cast heard but not seen (5).
- Cause of dispute could be funny (4).
- Check ancestral line (4).
- Overseas post - letters in steamship, maybe (7).
- Brave fellow finishing race in novel circumstances (7).
- 11 almost joining Edward in royal position (7).
- Insectivore is unable to endure decapitation (3-4).
- Ruler to set course in crisis (4).
- Fly back, sound as a bell (4).
- Girl reverses major road sign (5).
- Put out the '51 port (5).
- Instrument a proud father's delighted to hear (4,5).
- Cricketers painted by Rembrandt (5-8).

DOWN

- After one round, go here for another? (10,4).
- Here, we reckon, out altogether Leander's type (5).
- An event he's organized from above (6-4).
- Ineptly? Remarkably so (7).
- 12 run amok in (13,7).
- Boss removes 21 from jet place (14).
- 7 Courage to overcome each new sorrow (19).
- Ordinary, choice of words associated with market (6,2,2).
- Change of image which achieved with this (15,3).
- Exclude undesirable Scot - an islander (9).
- Extinct mammal used by 28, perhaps (4,3).
- Subject born in a strangely regal setting (7).
- Americans' very minute sphere (5).
- In speech roughly rebuke former MP (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,109

PRIZE CROSSWORD IN THE TIMES TOMORROW
CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Food prices

Shoppers who complain that they can no longer afford beef should take a look at boneless topside and pork at 48p a pound. Safety bacon joints are reduced by 23p a pound, and Floc Fare have fresh chicken at 54p a pound.

Spring cabbages are excellent at 20-30p a pound, and English spring greens are another good buy at 14-24p. English and Italian carrots at 10-14p a pound are very good and need little scapings. Cauliflower is cheaper this week at 42-50p, and small ones from Lincolnshire are particularly recommended. English Cos and Webb lettuce are just arriving in the shops at 30p to 40p a pound.

Cape black Barfinka grapes are really good at 60-75p a pound, and there is plenty of English, natural, rhubarb at 16-26p. Apples include Star Crimson and Star Kings, both crisp and tasty at 30p to 40p a pound. Strawberries at 40p to 70p a half pound punnet are cheap for the time of year.

Roads

London and the South-east: Several sets of roadworks on A2: Old Kent Road, Southwark; avoid if possible. M25: New section, junctions 37 (M11) to 29 (A127), open to public from 1pm. M1: Southbound lane closures at junction 7 (M10 turn-off); delays during morning rush-hour.

Midlands and East Anglia: M54: Lane closures on Telford by-pass. A1: Lane closures on Stangate Hill, near Alconbury, Cambridgeshire. A5: Single lane traffic on Shrewsbury to Oswestry road at Weirbrook, Shropshire.

North: M6: Lane closures between junctions 41 (N of Penrith) to 42 (N of Carlisle). A1: Roadworks at Northburgh, N Yorks. M62: Lane closures between junctions 22 (Bradford, Halifax) and 26 (Ripponden), W Yorks.

Wales and West: A55: Single lane traffic on A55, Penmaen Head, Old Colwyn, Clwyd. M5: North-bound exit slip road closed at junction 25 (Taunton); diversion via junction 26 for Taunton traffic.

South: Temporary lights at Cheltenham Road roundabout in Gloucester; diversion.

Scotland: A8: Diversions and carriageway closures at Parkies, East Glasgow. A72: Single lane traffic at Parkies. A98: Forts road; diversions for wide loads.

Information supplied by the A.A.

The papers

The Corley strike is not about workers cleaning up in company time, but whether the management will be able to go on dictating to the workers. "It is time," says the Daily Mirror, "to teach them a few basic truths about industrial relations."

There should have been no need for a mass rally at Cowley, says the Daily Express. "The stoppage has been going on for three weeks - plenty of time for the unions to have organized a secret postal ballot... But now it is up to the workers to vote publicly for their families and get back to work."

Weather forecast

A deep depression will approach SW England from the Atlantic, and associated troughs of low pressure will move N across England and Wales.

6 am to midnight

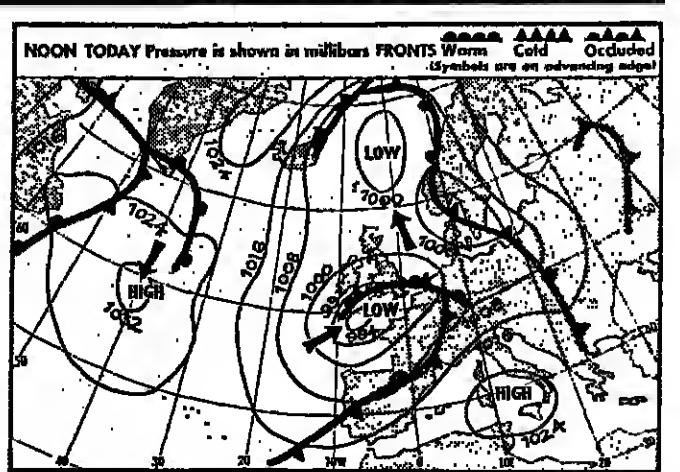
London, SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Cloudy, rain, heavy and thundery in places, sleet or snow on some high ground, becoming brighter later; wind E, fresh to strong, backing SW and moderating later; max temp 10 to 12 (5 to 54F).

East Angles, Midlands, E, NW, central N England, N Wales: Cloudy, rain by evening, heavy and thundery in places, winny on hills; wind E, fresh to strong, veering SW, moderate; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

East of Scotland, E, NW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers, winny on hills; wind E, light to moderate; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 49F).

Outlook for the weekend: Continuing unsettled and rather cold.

Sea passages: North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SE, fresh or strong, perhaps gusty; sea rough, choppy, very rough. English Channel: Wind S to SW, fresh or strong; sea moderate or rough, perhaps very rough later. St. George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NE, strong or gale; sea rough or very rough.



Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10.01	11.10	12.10	13.10
Aberdeen	8.57	9.57	10.57	11.57
Ayr	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Belfast	8.54	9.54	10.54	11.54
Birmingham	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Bristol	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Cardiff	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Edinburgh	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Exeter	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Glasgow	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Leeds	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Liverpool	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Manchester	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Newcastle	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Nottingham	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Sheffield	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Southampton	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Stirling	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Swansea	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Wolverhampton	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04
Wrexham	9.04	10.04	11.04	12.04

London rainfall

Station	24h	48h	7d	10d
Belfast	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Birmingham	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Bristol	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Cardiff	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Edinburgh	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Exeter	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Glasgow	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Leeds	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Liverpool	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Manchester	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Newcastle	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Nottingham	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Sheffield	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Southampton	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Stirling	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Swansea	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Wolverhampton	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Wrexham	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Top films

Rank	Title	Box Office
1	Sophie's Choice	£18,944
2	Gandhi	£18,944
3	Local Hero	£18,944
4	An Officer and a Gentleman	£18,944
5	Table for Five	£18,944
6	Heat and Dust	£18,944
7	Best Friends	£18,944
8	The Verdict	£18,944
9	48 Hrs.	£18,944
10	The Top Five in the provinces:	
1	Local Hero	
2	Gandhi	
3	The Dark Crystal	
4	The Boys in Blue	
5	Raiders of the Lost Ark	

Compiled by Screen International

